

**The Cedar Rapids
Masonic Conference
November 1918**

***“MAN IS NEVER SO ERECT AS WHEN
HE STOOPS OVER THE FALLEN”***

There's a Rose that is blooming for you, friend
There's a Rose that is blooming for me :-
Its perfume is pervading the world, friend.
Its perfume is for you and for me.

Long ago in the valley so fair, friend,
Far away by the beautiful sea,
This pure Rose in its beauty first bloom'd, friend,
And it blooms still for you and for me.

All in vain did they crush this fair flower, friend,
All in vain did they shatter the tree,
For its roots, deeply bedded, sprang forth, friend,
And it blooms still for you and for me.

—
Refrain —

There's a Rose a lovely Rose,
Rose that blooms for me, a Rose that blooms for you,
And its beauty all the world shall see:
There's a Rose a lovely Rose,
Rose that blooms for me, a Rose that blooms for you,
Its perfume is for you and for me.

THE ROSE OF SHARON

Free masons, U.S.
=


Proceedings of the Conference of Grand Masters and Representatives

Cedar Rapids,
Ia., 1918.

RESULTING IN THE FORMATION OF THE
MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES



HELD ON
NOVEMBER 26 27 28 1918
CEDAR RAPIDS IOWA



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DEDICATION

To all Brother Masons who represented America in her Army, Navy, or auxiliary organizations in the World War against the rule of Might, striving to protect our homes and preserve the ideals of Freemasonry;

To those Wives, Mothers, Sisters, and Daughters of Masons who through the Red Cross and other authorized agencies battled against the Hun by their ministrations;

To those Masons who fought the good fight in the trenches at home, giving of their brain that those who did not understand or appreciate the real spirit of America might be educated to do so, giving of their wealth that the soldier might not want, giving themselves to patriotic endeavor until their vital energies were sapped, guided by a Masonic instinct which told them that they owed all that they were or might become to their assaulted Country;

To those eminent Masonic Brethren, East, West, North, and South, who came to Iowa at the command of an American soldier, spurred by a sense of Duty, and in a spirit of reverence and exaltation and love acted as they believed a Mason should act when striving to his utmost to perform God's work,

This volume of the Minutes of the Cedar Rapids Conference is affectionately dedicated by

THE GRAND LODGE OF IOWA, A.F. & A.M.



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GEO. L. SCHOONOVER
Grand Master, Iowa

THE CEDAR RAPIDS MASONIC CONFERENCE

PRELIMINARY LETTER OF
GRAND MASTER OF IOWA

GRAND LODGE OF IOWA A. F. & A. M.
GEO. L. SCHOONOVER
GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN IOWA
ANAMOSA, IOWA

Oct. 3, 1918

To All Grand Masters in the United States

MY DEAR BROTHER GRAND MASTER:

There are times when a problem weighs so heavily upon a man's conscience that he cannot sleep nights. This is not a good thing for the health. The only antidote offered by science for a case like that is that he unburden himself, fully, freely, and frankly to some friend in whom he can trust. Such an hour of confession is akin to prayer. I cannot personally understand why, when a problem of this kind is discussed between two earnest, thoughtful men, it is not a prayer. For surely God is present upon such an occasion; and if He be the loving Father we picture Him in Masonry, He will give an ear to such a problem, presented in a reverent way.

It seems to me that there is a problem which you and I ought to be considering in just such a way as I have outlined. I cannot believe that we have considered it as carefully as it merits. Had we done so, I feel that we would long since have gotten together in this reverent way which I have tried to describe, to survey it from every possible angle.

In approaching it, I do so with a feeling of trepidation. Like

many another problem which it becomes ours to deal with, to have a difference of opinion is by no means to imply bad faith to either party. Scattered as we Grand Masters are, in forty-nine different parts of the United States, surrounded by an infinite variety of conditions, and our minds occupied by the details of everyday duties in our respective offices, it is not at all strange that we may have not seen all sides of it. In looking at a diamond we see but a few of its facets; and it is not to be wondered at that we have a large divergence of opinion as to its brilliancy.

In order to present my own ideas upon this problem, I wish to come to you as if we were closeted together, alone, under conditions of friendship and mutual esteem which would permit of the fullest and frankest expression. If in doing so I turn the search-light of study into the very innermost depths of my own soul, please do not accuse me of egotism. I make no disclaimers other than that. My friends who know me, over the United States, will have to acquit me of that feeling or of that attitude. It is not that which impels me, but a deep-seated conviction, which has grown with the months since we as a nation have entered into this terrible war, that I am not doing my duty as a Mason. The action of the Grand Lodge of Iowa in elevating me to the highest position within its gift does not rob me of my right to think. What it has done is to impress upon me a thousand-fold the fact that the measure of the honor which that position brings to me is the measure of service to our Craft which I bring to it — and no more. And this deep-seated conviction that I am falling short of my bounden duty to give to Masonry the best that is in me, challenges that conception of the position which I hold in Iowa. I must speak. To speak elsewhere than to my confreres who hold, or have held, the same position in this and other Grand Lodges, is to dodge the issue. That I will not do.

Listen then, to an unhappy soul unburdening itself.

For almost a year and a half our Free Nation has been at war with the ancient enemy of all Freedom — Despotism. Despotism in its most damnable form — so damnable that thoughtful men everywhere wonder. To some it seems like ordinary lun-

acy, to others, devilishness gone mad. Had the Nazarene succumbed to Satan upon the mountain-top, when he offered Him the kingdoms of the earth, He might have become like the Kaiser of Germany.

Liberty, Equality, Fraternity are mighty words — so mighty that they spell the ultimate doom of Despotism. Now they are at work. Of the ultimate result we need no longer fear. America has arrived, and it is not "Too Late." France, our Sister Republic, England, our Mother, and all the nations of the earth know it. Even despotic Germany knows it in part. It is only a question of time and blood; time and blood, the great historical antiseptics that eventually overcome every scourge which besets mankind. It has been so, and it will be so again.

Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity are dynamic words. And nowhere more dynamic than in the great Masonic institution. Let me capitalize that word "Institution." As I conceive it, it knows no territorial boundaries. It is a Spirit Thing, binding heart to heart, working its sweet ministry upon men of every color and race according to their capacity to receive the Truth.

What is *The Great Truth*? Leaving those to define it who love to dogmatize, may I not ask is it anywhere revealed in greater purity or in an atmosphere of greater affection than in the Constitution of the United States? Again, leaving to the historians to tell exact data in what manner suits them best, is not this great truth the very essence of Masonry? It was put there by Masons, and they did not fail in their duty.

Masonry, then, pure and undefiled, is emblazoned in the American Constitution, because its principles underlie that document which every true American reveres.

By so much as this is true, this war is *Masonry's war*! And every Masonic principle is at stake in this war.

* * * * *

We sit now in the chamber of reflection.

I come to you sick at heart. I, a Mason — aye, I, a Grand Master of Masons, am sick at heart because I cannot make Iowa Masonry take its proper place in a World Temple whose very pillars are falling all about me.

True, we have asked our lodges to register and keep sweet the memory of their brethren who wear the khaki of our country. True, we have raised a War Emergency Fund, as a free will offering, and stand ready to raise more when it is needed. True, we are accepting the petitions of those who would be Masons before they go "over there," and using every legitimate means within our power, waiving technicalities, in order that their ambitions to be numbered among the Great White Souled Brotherhood may be gratified. They are worthy to be so numbered. True, the Grand Lodge of Iowa has extended its fraternal hand to the Grand Lodge and the Grand Orient of France, applying only the standards of Fraternal Service to them and thereby finding them truly Masonic — and may God grant that Iowa Masonry may forever remain big enough to apply only that standard. True, we have respected the hailing sign of distress from across the waters, voiced by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of France in the memorable and modest words which follow, by expressing our good will and aiding the cause. True, our lodges have bought Liberty Bonds. True, they have contributed to every humanitarian cause which is classed by our government as a legitimate one. True, our membership throughout the state has stood behind the government in its every activity, leading where the free will of a great people have chosen them to be leaders, following when it seemed that someone else could best do the work.

We have given our money as lodges.

We have given ourselves as citizens.

But we have not given ourselves as Masons!

* * * * *

If the action of the Grand Lodge of Iowa had not been favorable to the recognition of French Masonry at its Annual Communication of last June, I could not recite the following touching reply from Brother Gal. Peigne, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of France, acknowledging our cabled recognition:

"I beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your letter confirming your cablegram of the 13th June, which we received with the greatest joy. It is for us, indeed, a veritable pleasure to have your Grand Lodge renew fraternal rela-

tions with ours. Like you, we are convinced that our co-operation will be beneficial.

"Replying to your wish, which conforms to ours, of exchanging between our two Societies guarantees of friendship, our Federal Council has honored me by appointing me representative to your Grand Lodge and of submitting this choice for your ratification. I will accept and fulfill this command with pleasure.

"You wish to thank me for the courtesy with which we have received American Masons who have come to France in the aid of Right and Justice. We have received them as brothers and we entertain the most cordial relations with them. We are always happy to see them among our number. It is with the greatest pleasure that we have fulfilled and will continue to fulfill this fraternal and pleasant duty, and we are glad that they have so generously appreciated our sentiments in their regard; an appreciation which you repeat.

"I am greatly touched also by the offer which you make of coöperation in our war work. I would believe myself lacking in a sacred duty should I not reply with the frankness which you asked for.

"Most of our lodges in the Provinces have established and are carrying on very interesting work; military hospitals, help to the families of the heroes who have disappeared in the torment which has ravaged our country for four years. Personally our Grand Lodge established on its property, a Military hospital, which has been suppressed since 1915; its existence, in a city like Paris, being of little importance on account of the few beds we were able to install. We also established free meals for the benefit not only of Masons, but of others who were so tried by the war. Work having been rapidly resumed and the want having abated, we gave up this work which no longer responded to a necessity.

"There are two things which we began at the commencement of the war, and which we still follow and hope to pursue to the end of the war if possible; the work of caring for families of those killed, and above all, the work of sending food to the prisoners of war.

"We commenced this last work in 1915. At first we sent two packages a month to our Masons who were prisoners, by means of the Berne Committee (attached to the Red Cross) of aid to the prisoners of war, of which the Secretary General is a Mason, very devoted, and the President an Alsatian, a big-hearted woman, become Swiss through her

marriage, but remaining French in soul, and who gave her son for the defence of France and today mourns his glorious death.

"Unfortunately, the war still continues, the misery increases with the mourning, and although we bear stoically all the misfortunes which overwhelm us; although we shall stand firm for a just victory, we cannot, now, help the unfortunate in the same proportion, and we have had to reduce our ration for the prisoners to one package a month, a cruel decision for us, because the Germans let them die of hunger. And now the time is coming when we shall not be able to give them this slight help. We cannot appeal to our lodges in the Provinces, for they have difficulty in carrying on the work they have undertaken. Our lodges in Paris and foreign lands helped us as they could. In the beginning of the war we sent an appeal to the various Grand Lodges and to the Orients abroad. Alone, the Grand Orient of Brazil responded—they sent us some 13,000 francs. We are poor today because three-fourths of our Masons are in the army. Many of them have fallen. There remain the living, victims of war, and in the first place, prisoners and children. There remains also the misery which we shall have to help in the invaded regions, when their hour of freedom shall come. In spite of all, we desire earnestly to keep on with these works. We shall be very happy to have the American Masons who will be made prisoners have a share in this. We have a great affection for them. We have found in the Americans spirits kindred to our own. Such, very frankly, as you demanded, is our situation as we enter the fifth year of the war.

"Permit me, in closing, to tell you of the admiration we have, which our soldiers who fight beside them have for the courage, the devotion, and the self-sacrifice of the Americans."

A Mason wrote that letter. Gentle, kind, big-hearted, modest, smothering his own sorrow, praising the samples of American bravery of which I am proud, but forgetting to mention the volumes of heroism and sacrifice shown by his countrymen—yes, he is a Mason. He is my brother in heart as well as in arms.

French Masons *have* given themselves, *as Masons!*

* * * * *

Let it not be said that American Masons are not thinking about what we ought to be doing, as Masons. In December last,

following the conference of Fraternal Societies held at the request of Secretary McAdoo, the Grand Masters of some twenty-five or thirty Jurisdictions met informally at the invitation of Grand Master Witten of the District of Columbia, and the matter was touched upon. Of that conference little more need be said. It was not to its credit that it permitted the specter of a General Grand Lodge to drive out of the conference room the vision of that mighty army in khaki, no small part of which needs the grasp of a brother's hand on the other side of the water. Through the kindness of my predecessor in office I was privileged to attend that little meeting, and the memory of a brother who could not vote upon a resolution to have a group of Masons named as a committee to study the problem, because his Grand Lodge had not acted upon the question, remains a nightmare to haunt me.

The Conference in New York, though lightly attended, promised more. M. W. Brother Thomas Penny had a vision of the problem. He propounded certain questions which no thinking Mason could conscientiously ignore. They went to the core of the matter. Without bias or prejudice, they frankly asked the question whether Masonry might not find something worth while to do in the maelstrom, "over there."

With all due respect to the Resolutions Committee, I want to protest the "seemingly," the "so far as possible," the "be invited to contribute," and the "recommend" phrases in the resolutions which resulted. If the visiting brethren believed that which in their resolutions they said they believed; if they believed what the New York brethren evidently *did* believe, then their resolutions should have rung throughout Masonic America as the Liberty Bell rang for Freedom. No countryside, no "Grand Jurisdiction," should have been too far distant to have heard its clarion call!

If the reports of the Conference in the Masonic Press are to be believed, this effort "to unite the Masons of America into one common mass" for the purpose of effecting a working organization to help our brethren overseas was abortive, because no one *dared* to use the Trowel! As hosts to the Conference, our New York brethren could not wield it. All honor to them,

therefore, that they are following the vision as they see it, raising a substantial fund to carry it through, while the rest of us are appointing War Boards (some of us are) in order to be able to work with them when they finally launch their splendid program.

Right here is a good place to quote from a letter in my possession from a brother who knows what the New York program is, and is helping it from the inside. He says:

"We are not 'over there' yet, and there is nothing definite when we will be. We are being held up (and I use the term advisedly). You can draw your own inference."

My brother, we are still in the chamber of reflection, and I want to ask you a question: *Do you like the stinger in the above quotation?* Do you suppose that if the Masons of America (I'm talking about the Craft, now, and not Grand Officers) *knew* that such a condition existed, they would sit supinely by and twirl their thumbs? I do not think they would! Yet I feel that I am doing that very thing, up to this date!

Our government, by the very nature of the crisis which it faces, is forced to restrict welfare work to as few organizations as possible. I believe that they have no business recognizing forty-nine or more different organizations, all Masonic. We are entitled to no such special recognition. If we would work together as *one*, we could get results.

* * * * *

We are still sitting together in the chamber of reflection.

Humiliating as it is, I must read you another letter. This one hurts. It hurts deep. But I've been twirling my thumbs, and I accept the reproof which it implies. Whether it will bring the lump into your throat I do not know. Can you listen to the voice of an American soldier telling of his need, without a lump? I cannot. I feel a blush of shame creep up my neck every time I read this letter. I've had it only forty-eight hours. It touched the trigger, and that's why my pistol is going off.

Listen to him, brother o'mine, asking favors of me! He, a Captain in my army, asking as a favor that I send him magazines! So that the tired and the lonesome and the wounded may rebuild shattered nerves, get a mental handclasp with the

thinking brother back home, and forget the wounds suffered that I might be free. He, a Captain drawing barely enough money to pay his expenses and keep up the little home "Somewhere in the U.S.A.," and his brother, a Private, drawing \$30.00 a month, need money, so that they can have a little Masonic Club House "Somewhere in France," and keep sweet, keep manly, keep clean for the wife and babies at home—a place where no religion is preached at them, but where the tender bud of Masonry may bloom into the flower of new friendships and renewed fraternal ties. They need money, brother o'mine!

Yes, as God is my witness, they need money to do for themselves the work which I, an able-bodied member of the Masonic fraternity, should long ago have been planning and executing for them! This is the naked truth, openly confessed. Now read the letter:

**"Masonic Club
Base Section No. 1**

**W. F. Jerome,
President**

**Charles I. Cook,
Vice President**

**Morgan Taylor,
Treasurer**

**Edmond Dupras,
Secretary**

"Saint Nazaire, France, Sept. 1, 1918

**"The National Masonic Research Society,
Anamosa, Iowa.**

"Brethren:

"Will you please publish and find out if any one would be so kind as to send any and as many Masonic Journals as possible to our Club, as we can dispose of them very easily and put them into valuable circulation. They need not be fresh from the press, but after they have been read and of no more value to the folks at home, forward them to the Masonic Club, Base Section No. 1, Saint Nazaire, France, and I assure you they will be well appreciated by our worthy brothers who visit the Club, and the sick and wounded in the hospitals.

"Thanking you for any consideration given, I remain

"Fraternally yours,

"Edmond Dupras, Secretary."

And he enclosed a little advertisement that they are running in an American newspaper of French vintage, as follows:

"Masonic Club — Saint Nazaire. Meets every Tuesday, 7 p. m., Masonic Hall, Place Marceau, over Cafe American. Club rooms open from 7 p. m., to 11 p. m. every night. All Masons welcomed. E. Dupras, Secretary."

Finally, he inserts a mimeographed letter from the Club Committee, of which this is a verbatim copy:

**"Masonic Club, Base Section One
A. P. O. 701, A. E. F.**

"Sept. 1, 1918.

"Brethren:

"Since coming abroad Masons belonging to the American Expeditionary Forces have been working under peculiar conditions, and it is for a correction of these conditions that we appeal to the members at home.

"Masonic Clubs have been organized quite generally throughout the different army units, and in base ports and large cities have attained considerable importance, but the real activities and purposes of all these organizations are greatly hampered, and some have ceased to exist for the following reasons:

"First. — Membership is drawn entirely from the army, navy, and attached civilians, whose first consideration must be the performance of those duties to which they have been assigned in the service, and which often leave little or no time for anything else. *We are first to win the war.*

"Second. — The large field for work makes time an essential.

"Third. — The absence of support which comes through coördination, recognition and outside help.

"As a remedy for these conditions, we suggest the following:

"That a central body be organized in the United States, whose duty it would be to raise funds, appoint a staff of secretaries above military age, and systematize Masonic activities among the troops abroad, especially in France and Italy.

"An executive officer, having plenary power, should be stationed at a central point, like Paris, to whom the various Clubs could make known their needs, and to receive reports. Club rooms should be maintained at all the principal points, such as base ports, large cities, casual and rest camps, and other places where the membership would seem to warrant. Each of these Club rooms should be under the charge of a civilian Secretary provided with sufficient funds to furnish

and maintain the rooms, and for the relief of all worthy Masons.

"This being a base port, and also near a large area, we come in daily contact with many Masons upon their arrival in France; with the wounded sent back from the front; and with soldiers returning to the homeland, which places us in an excellent position to carry out the precepts of our noble Order by extending Fraternal greetings, rendering aid to those in distress, and visiting the sick and wounded.

"Until other arrangements are made, any funds that you might feel disposed to give can be placed to a good purpose through our Club, and money is needed!

"In conclusion we bespeak your earnest consideration to our Masonic conditions and ask that you immediately take such steps as are necessary and seem best for the greater fulfillment of our obligations and responsibilities as Masons.

"Fraternally,

"Masonic Club Committee.

"Forwarded by

"Edmond Dupras, Secretary."

Do you wonder that I feel like a slacker?

I've been one.

* * * * *

But the explosion is out, and *I'm not a slacker now.*

I cannot do this work alone. The Grand Lodge of Iowa can and will help, and I will help myself, to the best of my ability. but we cannot do it alone. It is a job for American Masonry, that is what it is! No labels that indicate degrees have any place in this work. It is not a matter of titles, or of Rites, or of Grand Jurisdictions. It is a matter of *rights!*

You are big enough not to ignore this call. So is your Grand Jurisdiction. I'm not afraid to meet you and talk this matter over to its last detail if necessary! And the Grand Lodge of Iowa is not afraid to have me come and talk the matter over with you. I'm not afraid of an *organization*, with officers having "plenary power," as our brother expresses it, or "all buttoned up," as my good friend Brother Watres of Pennsylvania would say, in order to do the job that needs to be done for our brethren in khaki. We don't care who fathers it, so that we get the best brains that American Masonry possesses. Forget "General Grand Lodge" with its eerie phantom! Our country is in

a crisis, the like of which it has never faced before. Our brethren are flocking to the colors; they're being mixed up like hash in the griddle—but they're still Masons! They are meeting a crisis, too! And in that crisis they are calling on you and me to help them.

The New York plan may be the best one to unite around—I don't care how it is done, so that we answer that Masonic Club Committee's letter as it deserves to be answered. To answer it at all demands that we answer it effectively.

Our government has told us that they will recognize us as a National organization, but they will not do so as forty-nine or more separate organizations.

Can you, and will you, meet me within thirty days at some central point in the United States of America to talk this thing over? And will you bring with you one, or two, or three of your strong Masons—the strongest men you have in your Jurisdiction—so that when we have met upon the level and evolved something, we can go before the Masons of America and tell them that we have a constructive plan which will represent American Masonry at its best? We don't need to worry about money, if we show them that we are going to try to do the job, and do it right. And they will accept *nothing less!*

With all sincerity, I am

Fraternally yours

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. L. Quincey'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with long, sweeping lines.

Grand Master of Masons in Iowa

LETTER OF INVITATION TO THE CONFERENCE

GRAND LODGE OF IOWA, A. F. & A. M.

GEO. L. SCHOONOVER

**GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN IOWA
ANAMOSA, IOWA**

November 1, 1918

MY DEAR BROTHER GRAND MASTER:

You are hereby formally invited to participate with me in a Masonic Conference, covering Masonry's attitude toward War Activities and the future, to be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, November 26, 27, and 28, 1918. You are also invited to bring with you a number of your leading Masons—as many as you may see fit—the strongest men in your Grand Jurisdiction, so that our deliberations upon this all-important subject may be truly representative of the best thought and opinion in your state. As I am inviting every other Grand Master, and asking him to bring with him the representative men of his Jurisdiction in like manner, I sincerely hope that the Conference may, at the conclusion of its deliberations, be truly said to have represented the best Masonic thought of the United States.

This call is based upon an overwhelming preponderance of replies to my letter to the Grand Masters dated October Third, in favor of affirmative action along the lines therein indicated.

I may say that I sent a considerable number of copies of this letter to my personal friends and Masonic acquaintances over the country, and that the views expressed by them on its subject matter are, if anything, more nearly unanimous in favor of concerted action than are the Grand Masters themselves.

The above date seems to accommodate the largest number of Jurisdictions possible. So far as I can learn, no Jurisdiction meets during the week mentioned; the Brethren from New York who are to explain their plan and its present status can be in

attendance then; and the War Activities Drive conducted in behalf of the Societies engaged in a joint plea for funds with which to meet their expenditures will have been concluded.

World events seem to be moving definitely toward Peace. Always, however, we must be in a state of mental reservation in making such a statement, for the Hun knows no honor or honesty, and until his strongholds are finally occupied and the last vestige of feudalism has been removed from his government, his acceptance of an armistice will be merely what his other treaties have been, a "scrap of paper."

Should conditions within Germany finally prove to have forced a real surrender, there will still be a long period of demobilization — longer in the case of our American Army, probably, than any other. This will mean that the strenuous night-and-day program of each American soldier will have given way to substantially an eight-hour day of police duty and work in behalf of the stricken nations.

If their objective is won, then during the two or three years which will elapse before our boys return to our firesides their needs will be even greater than while the stress of necessity keeps their eyes and their thoughts constantly upon Berlin. Victory will bring relaxation, with all its attendant dangers. And the duty of Masonry in the days and months while Peace is being made a reality will if anything be more arduous than in the days of War.

As I view it, therefore, our reason for coming together to discuss our problems of the future will be intensified, rather than decreased, whether the immediate future holds for us as a Nation Peace, or continued and relentless War.

If, therefore, my first letter on the subject of coöperation was an urgent one, I would put additional stress upon the importance of your attendance upon this Conference now. While I leave to my government the determination of all these questions with the utmost confidence, the problem before Masonry is clearer and more urgent than before, and the individual duty which I owe to increase to the utmost of my ability the efficiency of Masonry in meeting its national problems remains as binding as ever.

LETTER OF INVITATION

25

A word of explanation as to the plans for the Conference itself. Cedar Rapids is a city of something over 40,000 people. The Conference will be assembled in the Consistory Cathedral. The headquarters will be at the Montrose Hotel, where arrangements will be made for the entertainment of our guests. Cedar Rapids is about 225 miles west of Chicago, on the main line of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, and substantially 300 miles east of Omaha. It also lies on the main line of the C., R. I. & P. from St. Louis to St. Paul, with Pullman facilities and connections from both points.

In order to expedite the arrangements in Cedar Rapids, I will be obliged if upon leaving home, you will wire Brother N. R. Parvin, Grand Secretary, at Cedar Rapids, your prospective time of arrival, and the route you expect to travel.

The opening session of the Conference will be at eleven o'clock A.M., Tuesday, November 26. An Iowa Reception Committee will be on hand during the morning hours in the parlor of the Montrose Hotel, on the mezzanine floor. In registering, please inform the hotel clerk that you have reservations as one of the Masonic Conference party.

If you will advise me, in advance, just whom you expect to bring with you, I will have reservations for your entire party, by name.

Assuring you of a most hearty welcome, I am
Sincerely and fraternally yours,



Grand Master

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION

NOVEMBER 26, 1918

At the call of Most Worshipful Grand Master George L. Schoonover, of Iowa, a conference was held, to which not only the Grand Masters but other prominent members of the Craft throughout the United States were invited.

OPENING SESSION

Promptly at 11 o'clock A.M. Grand Master George L. Schoonover called the conference to order, and a stenographic report of the proceedings follows:

REPRESENTATIVES AT THE CONFERENCE

Delaware	A. Victor Hughes, Grand Master, Wilmington
Florida	T. Picton Warlow, Grand Master, Orlando
Idaho	George Lawler, P. G. M., Tacoma, Washington (Grand Master's Representative)
Illinois	Austin H. Srogin, Grand Master, Lexington Arthur M. Millard, Pres. Emp. Bur., Chicago
Iowa	Geo. L. Schoonover, Grand Master, Anamosa Newton R. Parvin, Grand Secy., Cedar Rapids Chas. C. Clark, P. G. M., Burlington Frederick W. Craig, P. G. M., Des Moines Louis Block, P. G. M., Davenport Frank S. Moses, P. G. M., Clinton Wm. A. Westfall, P. S. G. W., Mason City Ernest R. Moore, P. D. G. M., Cedar Rapids

Louisiana	Geo. A. Treadwell, Grand Master, New Orleans John A. Davilla, Grand Secy., New Orleans
Maryland	Chas. C. Homer, Jr., Grand Master, Baltimore
Michigan	Hugh A. McPherson, Grand Master, Howell Lou B. Winsor, Grand Secy., Grand Rapids George L. Lusk, P. G. M., Lansing Chas. A. Conover, G. Secy., G. G. C., Coldwater
Minnesota	Wm. N. Kendrick, Grand Master, Spring Valley John Fishel, Grand Secretary, St. Paul George M. Stowe, Dep. Grand Master, Wadena
Montana	Ernest M. Hutchinson, Grand Master, Whitefish
Nebraska	Ambrose C. Epperson, G. M., Clay Center John A. Ehrhardt, P. G. M., Stanton Robert E. Evans, P. G. M., Dakota City
New York	Wm. S. Farmer, Grand Master, Syracuse Robert Judson Kenworthy, G. S., New York City Robert H. Robinson, D. G. M., New York City Townsend Scudder, P. G. M., New York City Wm. C. Prime, Rep. G. L. Eng., Rye, Yonkers
North Carolina	Henry A. Grady, Dep. Grand Master, Clinton
North Dakota	Henry G. Vick, Grand Master, Cavalier Walter L. Stockwell, P. G. M., G. Secy., Fargo Capt. Chas. I. Cook, Beach
Oklahoma	Joseph W. Morris, Grand Master, Snyder Wm. M. Anderson, P. G. M., G. Secy., Okla. City
Pennsylvania	Louis A. Watres, P. G. M., Scranton (Grand Master's Representative)
Rhode Island	E. Tudor Gross, Grand Master, Providence Frederick I. Dana, P. G. M., Providence
South Carolina	Jas. L. Michie, Rep. Grand Master, Darlington
South Dakota	Geo. A. Pettigrew, Grand Master, Sioux Falls Chas. L. Brockway, P. G. M., G. S., Sioux Falls
Tennessee	Samuel W. Williams, P. G. M., Harriman (Grand Master's Representative)
Utah	Arthur C. Wherry, S. G. W., Salt Lake City (Grand Master's Representative)
Washington	George Lawler, P. G. M., Tacoma (Grand Master's Representative)

Grand Master George L. Schoonover (Iowa): Brethren, I have asked Brother Haywood to invoke the Divine Blessing upon this assemblage. I will ask you, brethren, without the use of the gavel, to rise.

(The assemblage arose while the Divine Blessing was invoked).

INVOCATION

Rev. H. L. Haywood: Almighty God, the Architect of our own and of our race's destinies, Father of us all, through this prayer to Thee we express not only our love of Thee, but of our brethren in all places and lands, and especially to them that have been "overseas," fighting and dying for the sake of those principles and that spirit which our great and beloved fraternity witnesses to in the world.

And it is to meet one of the great issues of this present world struggle that we are convened today. So deeply do we feel the sense of our responsibility, that with all sincerity of heart we pray for the guidance of that mind which never errs and cannot fail.

Grant that in all things that we think, or say, or do, Thy will may be done. Amen.

Grand Master Schoonover: It has seemed to me fitting that while the maximum of freedom shall prevail in this body, there are one or two little customs which perhaps we might well follow.

I have asked Brother Moore, who is a Past Deputy Grand Master of Iowa, and at the present time Lieutenant Governor of our state, and a resident of Cedar Rapids, to extend to you a few brief words of welcome of the kind that we feel. Brother Moore.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Past Deputy Grand Master and Lieutenant Governor Ernest B. Moore (Iowa):

It is becoming that Iowa Masons, and particularly those of this city, should express their pleasure in the presence here of this notable gathering. Without vanity, it may be proper to say that the zeal and activity and the accomplishments of Iowa

Masonry have been complimented by the calling of this meeting within the jurisdiction.

It is needless for you to be assured of your welcome. That must be evident to you. It is more appropriate to express the hope that the great purposes for which you are called together shall be accomplished by a meeting of the minds that have always devoted themselves to the highest ideals of the Craft. The emergency that brings you here is as great as it is rare. The stupendous struggle that is all but closed, as well as other difficult situations still with us, have brought problems that can be solved only by the regularly constituted leaders of the Craft and then only after grave and earnest deliberations. Four years of war have in all civilized lands brought revolution or forced readjustments that neither seer nor prophet could have anticipated. If there has been a moving of the foundations in political government and among peoples, no less have the same impelling influences been felt within the Craft. It is inadvisable that time should be taken to discuss or to consider the disrupted Masonic relations in Europe. With situations there, we have little to do, and no doubt problems there will be solved without us. At the best all that we can do is, at the proper time, to tender our good offices that relations may be again established with elements worthy of Masonic recognition. However, the changed and changing situations here, alone, require the attention of the best minds among you.

When our country entered the war, it was admittedly unprepared. As a fraternity, our unpreparedness for concerted action was even more apparent. Within the period of a few months, the exigencies of war called into the army thousands of Masons and the lack of means for prompt and effective coöperation between jurisdictions left us unable to adopt measures that would give to our brethren the aid, the comfort and the facilities for Masonic communication that should have been there. That steps to remedy our delinquency were delayed until actual warfare had ceased does not justify further neglect. The devising and the adoption of measures that will afford to our members who are now in the army, and who may be there for an indefinite period, the privileges of Masonic communication must claim the

attention of this conference. Moreover, when we give consideration to the tremendous problems of readjustment that will come with peace, the changes in government, and the changes in the fundamental relations of man to man, we realize the necessity for wise and uniform planning. Masonry, fundamentally a democratic institution, cannot shirk its plain duty and must have a full share in establishing and maintaining true democracy against, on the one hand, those elements that have stood for autocracy, for centralized and non-responsible government, for suppression of independent thought, and, on the other hand, those irresponsible and destructive elements that will seek to vent their rage on all institutions, however worthy.

Our enemies are those, as of old, who would enchain the bodies and the minds of men and those of today who would destroy the very foundations of organized society. These forces stand at the extremes in political life and the path of Masonry lies straight between them. Then, too, while Masonry is not a crusading force, it must be ready to defend itself against the assaults of all the powers that see in it a living protest against the enslaving of minds of men and who for that reason would destroy it. This, too, may well claim your consideration.

In this greatest of Masonic conferences lie great opportunity and great responsibility. That, in it, there will be harmony and a unity of spirit, we feel sure. That, out of it, there shall come a unity of action that will make for the glory of the institution and for the betterment of humanity, we may well hope. With that heart's desire and in that hope, we welcome you.

"The Rose of Sharon" was sung by a mixed quartet, and vociferously applauded.

Grand Master Schoonover: I have in my hands a letter which I believe I will read. It comes from the Chamber of Commerce of Cedar Rapids, and after extending greetings to this body, says:

"Herewith please find a small offering for the distinguished guests of Cedar Rapids, from the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Just a few roses, which, like the 'Rose of Sharon,' 'bloom for you and for me.'

"Trusting that the visitors gathered here from all parts of the country will not be disappointed, but will so fall in love

with the city that from this time and henceforth always they will be *from* Cedar Rapids — a city with many angles and avenues and yet a city built and maintained on the square.

“Signed by the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.”

I hope, brethren, we now feel at home together. I want to say just a word about the arrangements for this meeting, so far as its mechanical departments are concerned. Everything that is reported here is being taken by a Mason, transcribed by a Mason, set up on the linotype by a Mason. I hope that we will be able in the morning to give you complete, printed minutes of this day's session. I say this that our confidence may grow as far as possible in our discussions together.

ADDRESS OF GRAND MASTER SCHOONOVER

MY BRETHREN OF AMERICA:

If I had invited you here, in the sense of being the sole cause of your coming, I should at this moment feel very much chagrined. If I alone were responsible for calling you busy, patriotic men from your firesides and your manifold duties in your several Jurisdictions, I should be abjectly contrite. For I know that of myself, I have no message worthy of this sacrifice upon your part. I can claim no more of patriotic fervor than can you. And I know, as you know, that no Grand Master in America could have assembled this group of great hearts and splendid minds, except he wore the vestments of governmental authority, or the uniform of an American soldier.

As a matter of fact, it is an American soldier who brought you here. It may be that he is your son, fighting the battles of freedom “over there.” It may be some relative of yours who has walked the decks of a submarine searcher out on the ocean depths. It may be a sister or daughter, who, although wearing the uniform of the Red Cross, is no less an American soldier than the others. Or it may be that I have been to a degree instrumental in visualizing to you an American soldier, the brother who from across the seas hung the lantern of need out in the front window of a little Masonic club at St. Nazaire in France, and by that act helped us to crystallize our thoughts of our own duty to supply that need. Humble as I feel in this

presence, I cannot help being glad if in even this small way I have contributed to this gathering.

But again I say that you are not in fact here because the Grand Master of Iowa invited you here. You are here because an American soldier, with a Square and Compass hidden under the lapel of his coat, commanded you to come!

Like that brother, you have been a good soldier. You have been doing all that flesh can do, in the various patriotic activities. Your duties have been American duties. You have fulfilled them until your energy was sapped. You even doubted whether it were the loyal, patriotic thing to leave your post in charge of another, while you traveled miles and miles to meet your American brethren to discuss a great and perplexing problem.

But you have come, at the call of a soldier's need. Your presence here avouches the fact that you desire that these days of communion shall be made worth while. You have come to think, to act, and to vote. And now it is for all of us to prove the verity of the old saying that it is better to go a thousand miles than to write a letter.

CONFUSION AMONG THE WORKMEN

The Temple of Masonry is being built, day by day and stone by stone. Its foundation is the labors of the thousands of sincere and earnest souls who have put their energy and their ability and their love into it, leaving to us of today to consolidate its superstructure. New days bring new duties. New years bring new crises. And these new crises must be met, not by those who have passed to their eternal reward, but by us, the craftsmen of today.

What is our present situation? I have tried to portray a picture of it in my letter of October third last. But no letter can do it justice. Everywhere there is confusion among the workmen. All over these United States men are thinking, wondering, waiting for new designs to be drawn upon the Trestleboard. It is a trestleboard of fate. The designs there appear to us intricate. They are not clear.

All over these United States there have been erected Grand Lodge Temples. Not buildings of stone and steel and mortar,

but Grand Lodge Temples of the Spirit. It is my privilege to have entered many of them. I have come to know them, and I know that every one is a replica of every other in this great land of ours. Some are small, some are large in area: all are great in their high aims and aspirations. And in the work that they were called upon to do, the Master Builders of these various temples have wrought the ideals of self sacrifice and service of humanity. Their record stands as a monument to our brotherhood.

These Grand Lodge Temples of the Spirit are made up of hundreds of ashlar — the constituent lodges. Through these lodges, in a never-ending stream, have passed armies of young men seeking the light. From them have gone forth an equal stream of young men, filled with these ideals, and striving, in their lives, to cause these principles to permeate to the uttermost corners of our American civilization.

And now many of these young votaries of Freemasonry have gone to war. The beast of Berlin unchained his dogs. Their whines, and the snarls of their whelps of Divine Right echoed across the waters, and peace, the peace which Masonry loves and preaches and teaches, was no more. For a Mason's peace is an honorable peace, and our republic, conceived in the limpid pools of justice and equity, was forced to fight.

It is useless to discuss the causes of this war, which every true Mason knows better than he knows his ritual. America fights for the principles she loves best, for the bleeding, oppressed peoples whom she has come to know better and to love. She fights to strike their shackles from them, and to liberate the world, so that it may be a fit place for a Mason and his loved ones to live in. Masonry is fighting, too. Masonry realizes how her vital precepts are assailed, and knows that if the Hun had won, our fraternity would not even be able to meet in the high hills and in the low dales as depicted in our scenic representations of the early days of her existence, but would be forced to seek the caves and covered places whence primitive man emerged — if indeed her existence were not wiped out entirely.

The realization of all this has forced our devotees into uniform. Not an American Masonic Grand Jurisdiction is harboring the slacker. Every one is doing its best to restore to the

world an atmosphere where brethren may dwell together in unity, and where "who best may work and best agree" may be a safe doctrine for any fraternity.

As we have watched our brethren march away in khaki and blue, our hearts have gone with them. While a brief furlough lasted we have gloried in the new squareness of their shoulders, and the new light in their eyes has brought a tear to our own. We have visited them in their camps, and have come back to tell our neighbors how an American boy learns to be a soldier of freedom. We have prayed that our Father in Heaven may bless them, keep them from harm, and fit them to go across the seas and do His work.

Then came the day when a certain division was ordered to entrain, presently to embark the seas made treacherous by a "nation with a submarine soul." We heaved a sigh of relief when the printed postcard told us that the vessel upon which they had sailed had landed safely. We were carefree while their period of training was resumed upon the soil of Lafayette. As they were brought up nearer to the battle lines the anxious moments were resumed; when the word came that the Rainbow Division had been sent into the battle cauldron with the British and the French we were confident of their mettle; and when the news of Chateau Thierry came back we wept for joy as well as for sorrow, because American troops had proven that we were not a nation of degraded money lenders, but a people who would still fight to secure liberty for others — that liberty which their forefathers had won for us with their blood.

Now a brighter day has come. Our late enemy has consented to an armistice which is in fact a surrender. With only a moment of doubting, we came to see that it is as necessary for the peace of the world that we feed him in his hunger, as it was to fight him in his lust. It is a tribute to the understanding of the American citizen that when, by administering a final crushing blow at a damnable and vicious autocracy, we were able to bring the war to a successful and rapid climax, we were also big enough, in the days when unconditional surrender is in fact being forced, to extend the hand of mercy to the fallen victim, to save him — and us — from the dangers of bolshevism.

But this bigness of ours had been exemplified before, in our

own war-making program. For while the industry and the energy of our nation were being warped into a vast machine of death, we had not forgotten our soldiers. We came speedily to realize that though the hours for a soldier are many and full of work, yet there come the times when the human machine must relax. It must play. We were interested in that play. We wanted it to be clean play. And, through various organizations, we have furnished other men not able to fight, to keep these hours of relaxation clean. The hours of dreariness and lonesomeness have been met by keen sport, comparable in intensity with the excitement of battle. And withal, the influence of home and a mother's yearning have been projected across the water that he, though his business might be killing Huns, might not forget. In a big way we have performed a service for our soldiers such as was never before dreamed of. All because we wanted them back with their eyes honest and their hearts pure.

In connection with the formation of these welfare organizations, some peculiar things happened. A great opportunity was missed. Breadth of vision and a true spirit of toleration would have made the Y. M. C. A. and the Red Cross the only activities administering to our men on the other side. (Applause.) Masonry should have thrown the whole weight of its influence in favor of this decision. But other organizations sprang into being, and with a great yelp, the Masonic press belabored our Secretary of War because he let certain organizations go into the camps, and kept the rest out. Why did we kick up such a rumpus? Did we sincerely want to do this work? Or were we merely giving vent to jealousy? The storm of protest lifted the ban for a little while. How many camps did we go into and build Masonic recreation centers? I dare not write the true record. It would not do justice to the real heart and spirit and determination of American Masonry, to tell it.

Now the lid is clamped on, tighter than ever. We are told that the government does not want any more agencies at work in the camps. That the field is completely covered. That it is not desirable to issue passports to American Masons to cross the ocean for the purpose of seeing whether or no there is still some work that may be done which is worth doing. Why?

As I see it from our experience here in Iowa, and as others present see it, there are at least two possible answers to the question. One is that in instances where Masonry has tried to do something along this line it has failed to measure up to the standards set by the other agencies. The other answer is that it is not the government of the United States which does not want our help, but that an insidious agency, an arch-enemy of all that our fraternity stands for, emboldened by its present ability to sit high in the councils of our government, is the agency which does not want us. Whichever is the reason, the fact we are now shut out is a challenge to our efficiency. In the one case, if we have been tried and found wanting, the difficulty lies within our own organization. If the other fact is true, then not only has the American government forgotten how much it owes to the Masonic fraternity for the principles and form of organization upon which it rests, but Masonry has forgotten it, too, and has failed to make its potential value equal to its precepts!

THE THREE ASSASSINS

To me, this condition is a tragedy. That Freemasonry, present at the birth of this republic, present during the travail of 1861 to 1865, should be absent now is a tragedy. For Masonry, if it be the living thing in other Masons that it is in me, has still something of value to this government of mine. And in these days when organizations desiring to help come out into the open and give of the best that is in them, it is not enough to say that members of our fraternity are doing, as individuals, the work that needs to be done, no matter how numerous they may be in these various welfare agencies. We are not conducting war as it was conducted in 1776, nor as it was waged in 1861. We have learned that the morale of an army does not depend solely upon its stomach, and that, with our bigger ways of doing things in these modern times, we can do much for the fighting man when he is off duty that adds materially to the efficiency of his fighting hours.

My brethren, if you deny me the belief that the sweet influence of Masonry, acting through brethren located either in our American camps or overseas, can add much to the idle hours

of thousands of our members now engaged "over there," then you take from me a large part of my conception of what Masonry is and what it can mean in the life of a man!

Who, then, and what is responsible for this tragedy?

I have been led to believe that assassins, in search of a victim, go in threes. And I believe that the present tragedy owes its unfortunate existence to the continuance of the rule.

I would bring to trial first, lethargy and indifference within the Craft. To me the tracks of this assassin are plain. Because of the hard work involved, we have been too ready to listen to the voice in the wilderness exclaiming that "our part would of necessity be small" — "the war would be over before we could perfect an organization" — "a Masonic organization would be an unnecessary duplication" — and the like. If you doubt my assertion that he is the first assassin, will you kindly tell me why old General Apathy has been able to make two meetings of Grand Masters accomplish so little?

Who is the second villain? I have spoken of him already. Others will tell more than I can about him. If further evidence is needed we have it at hand and can produce it. I, for one, do not believe that it is the United States government which considers that Masonic influence in these war activities would be a nonessential and useless appendage. I believe that there is an inspired and cunningly developed opinion of that kind! But it has not appeared in the halls of congress! May we not see a deep significance in that? It is this assassin who has been conniving and telling us that the avenues of democracy are closed to us. He it is who has been telling us that our duty lies elsewhere than in giving to our brethren and their friends in the army a place to meet in which suits them better than the others. He it is who does not want to see the flower of Masonic brotherhood blooming amid the poppies in Flanders and among the shell holes and the waste places of France. If I am right in this opinion, then, my brethren, I am for a program which will show this particular villain that he is not running my government!

But what of the arch-villain, the worst of the three, he whose blow has thus far proven absolutely fatal to our getting together to do this work, to insist upon our right to do it, and to prove

to our government that we can make it worth the while? Who is he?

Disunity is his name. He thrives on propaganda. He smothers us by babbling about the beauty of our temples. He writes orations about our "World-wide Brotherhood," and tells us "what a vital, omnipresent, soul-uplifting agency" we are. He builds Chinese walls hundreds of feet high about our "Sovereign Grand Jurisdictions." He "points with pride," says he is the "only-onliest," and calls God to witness that his favorite brand of Masonry, either of Rite or Jurisdiction, is, as a matter of fact and confidentially, the only true road to Masonic purity. He fears to cross jurisdictional boundaries except he is gumshod, and wears a gas mask. (Laughter.)

Disunity is his name. Even in the face of a crisis like the present, he is afraid to have American Masonry raise the American flag at the head of its column and march forward! There he stands, convicted as an assassin of Masonic accomplishment, a dictator to the greatest democracy in the world, telling our American Grand Lodges and Rites that each may travel its own road alone — and there are more than fifty different roads. Of course, they all travel in the same direction, and are going to the same place, but he wants no All-American administration for his!

Some of you perhaps think that I am going to come out, right here and now, as an advocate of a General Grand Lodge. Well, I'm not going to do any such thing. We are here to consider a certain problem, and do a certain work. That work is divided into two parts. First, to ascertain, from all the evidence which we can gather, what American Masonry's duty is in this war and afterward, to her own and to humanity. Secondly, having found the reasonable boundaries of that duty, what must we do to fulfill it?

The great accomplishment of the New York Conference, troublesome as have been the paths of action leading from it, was that it pretty definitely found out what our duty was. With the further study given to the subject by our New York brethren in particular, and with the voices of our brethren in khaki calling across to us from Europe and giving us their version of the real needs which they have met up with by actual experience, we

need not spend very much time in obtaining an adequate vision of that side of the problem. We can do our duty — as I view it, we must. The point is, how?

We have got to do it by killing the third ruffian. He holds in his hand a setting maul, aimed at our heads. What the other two have nearly accomplished — putting us to sleep — he will shortly finish forever, if we do not slay him in his tracks. We can do it, if we will.

To accomplish his elimination does not mean the formation of a General Grand Lodge, or to interfere with the independence of a single Grand Lodge, or to rob it of one single iota of its sovereignty. We can do it, in an American way, with American working tools, and go back to our respective Jurisdictions and get practically unanimous support for our method of meeting the present crisis.

The way has already been pointed for us. There is in existence today, and has been for some time, what is known as the International Bureau for Masonic Affairs, in Switzerland. This was formed for the purpose of bringing together on a plane upon which all could agree, the various European and some other bodies and rites, not because they had differences which each wished to adhere to, but because all had common points of contact which made them brothers. Recognition of that bureau, or participation in its affairs or in its work are all unnecessary for discussion here and now. They have a practical, working organization, worthy of our study, and as I am convinced, of our imitation. As brothers, they sought diligently to span the mountains, rivers, and oceans which divided them, so that, upon certain definite Masonic aims and purposes, they might agree. With nothing wider than the Mississippi river to span, we Grand Lodges in America, by adopting a like attitude, may provide ourselves with an American voice. We can mobilize our Masonic brain power upon those problems which are distinctively American. We can think together upon those problems, and, when our Masonic dynamo shall have been properly excited and synchronized, we can put out an amperage and a voltage which will do the work we ought to do, and if anybody tries to short-circuit us, will put them out of the way, the while the mills of our accomplishment grind steadily on.

Is there anything to prohibit this? Who shall deny us the right to study our war duties together? Who shall say that we may not try our best to see how those pressing duties will dovetail into a permanently constructive program for the future? What is to deter us from taking our brethren in khaki into our confidence, and giving to their expression of their needs the weight which their sacrifice entitles them to? Is there anything in Masonic law forcing us to live in forty-nine pens, with high board fences cutting us off from one another, while wild bulls come crashing through and rattlesnakes sink their fangs into us, one by one? We know something of our common duties; we know more of our common dangers. Can we neither join forces to accomplish the one or to ward off the other? Will neither a mission of mercy nor a need for a defense program awaken us?

Now someone is liable to tell me that I am overestimating some of these things. We will have voices from the front to tell us that story. Furthermore, we must remember what many Masons have forgotten, and that is that a big charity fund, no matter how necessary and how efficient it may be in helping us to care for those who have gone over and will come back maimed and wounded, will not help us at all in fulfilling our duty to those who will go over and have gone over and who will never come back! And are we to sit here in our chairs of safety and say that we owe no duty to those who go across, withstand the tempestuous storms of the conflict and come back well and hearty?

Have we stopped to consider that it is this latter class of brethren who will some day soon reënter our councils, and with strident voices, ask us why we did not fulfill our duty toward *them*? The final effect of it all, what will it be on them? Will they still continue to respect a fraternity too busy shaking its dry bones to meet a living, seething problem, in times like these? If they do continue to respect it, then they will rapidly take their positions in the places of Grand Lodge responsibility, and those who have shirked their duty will get into the Ancient Order of Has-Beens faster than they intended. If on the other hand they do not find that our fraternity had enough of vital-

ity and real purpose to take its place for the betterment of the boys who went over — for *that* will be the greatest American Society of Friends and Brothers in a few years — then they will simply drop out of Masonry. They will leave it in contempt for its proven inefficiency and go their ways, not suspended from Masonry for non-payment of dues, but having suspended Masonry from themselves, because it was not worth paying dues for.

But now I can hear some good brother saying that this is all well enough, but that for me to read an indictment against Freemasonry along these lines is not only out of place, but untrue, misleading, and totally forgetting the high aims, ideals, and purposes of Freemasonry, whose degrees no man can pass through without being bettered, etc., etc. To support such a contention means that you believe our fraternity to be made up chiefly of groups of Masonic scholars and students, each vying with the other to understand Masonic symbolism and penetrate the depths of its philosophy. Well, I simply say that it is not so. I think I speak from experience. You have to labor with a Mason, except he be a new initiate, to get him to study Masonry!

No! To the average Mason — and he numbers 1,790,000 of the 1,800,000 — Masonry, while possessing rare beauties of ritual, is a sealed book, so far as the understanding of that ritual is concerned! To him Freemasonry is a fraternity composed of the best fellows on earth, wide in their sympathies and their humanities, good fellows, prosperous fellows, the kind of fellows who are doing things in this world, and therefore the right kind to be associated with. To his mind, the Society of Freemasons has much in common with other societies, and sometimes he is inclined to feel that the benefits of some of the others are more certain.

Those Masons who have answered their country's call by donning the uniform will come back with the discovery that real religion is the religion of self-sacrifice, and they are going to come back and ask us if Masonry has any of that real religion! The studiously inclined ones will dig into our books. And the more they dig, the more they will want to know why all those

beautiful principles and precepts never resulted in tangible, concrete expression for them, while they were on the other side. What French Masons may do for our brethren in khaki may hearten them much — but are they, God bless them, to perform our duty for us?

Just what is it that our boys over there want? They want Masonic clubs, Masonic literature, Masonic fellowship. Now that the days of peace are imminent they will need much of all these. Active hostilities will be over. Time will drag heavily, and there will be no over the top excitement. More than all else, after they have participated in a few of the sights tendered to them as an army of occupation, they will want to come home. And the time intervening between the day when the glamour of sight-seeing wears off and the day of landing in New York will be spent in guarding German prisoners and camp routine. You are full-blooded Americans. I do not need to picture to you how much the influence of Masonry can be made to mean, as against that other thing — the historic sinister shadow of army life.

If from theorizing upon all these things we turn to action, to the promulgation of a constructive plan of meeting the needs, the things they want done, what will be the attitude of our Masons at home in providing them? We need not worry. So long as the proposed program is efficient, so long as our army brethren agree that we are doing the work they want done, just so long will the necessary money pour into a common treasury for the purpose. I do not believe that I speak unadvisedly in saying this. Copies of my October third letter went to each member of my advisory council and to a few other good energetic Iowa friends of mine. You ought to see the response! The building up of a charity fund is slow work, always. It does not express an immediate, compelling need, for experience has shown that it can be built up gradually, from year to year, as circumstances may require. But lodge after lodge in Iowa has sent me letters, resolutions pledging money without stint for this cause. Why? Because they have felt the prick of a real work needle! Checks and pledges and hozannas have come from dozens of these men, and they all say, "Let us get down to business and work!"

Humble as I feel in speaking of these kind, gentle, generous brethren of mine in Iowa, I cannot forego a great pride in them, their accomplishments, and their good will. They want an American Masonic voice! They have felt its need in this crisis. They have rubbed shoulders with their brethren of our Sister Jurisdictions in America. They love them. They trust them. They are not afraid that if the joint voice of American Masons shall be raised it will be a harsh, discordant voice, just because of wide distances and state boundaries. I spoke awhile ago of the Grand Lodge Temples of the Spirit as I know them. These Iowa brethren of mine know them, too. They know too that if all this wealth of spirit and all our united strength are brought into action on this or any other problem which confronts Masonry, that problem will be solved! They know, too, that if this united strength is brought to bear upon any enemy of free thought, or free speech, or free conscience, it will shatter the front lines of that enemy, exhaust his reserves and bring unconditional surrender! And when the battle is over, the fires of liberty will still be burning, from the Atlantic to the Pacific — yes, pray God, from the Atlantic back to the Atlantic again!

Is not what our Iowa brethren want the same thing that your brethren back home want? Is it not what you want? The hour of danger is here. Our Masonry, as well as what it stands for, is at stake. Is there one among us, under such circumstances, who does not want to feel that when he hangs the beacon light up in the dome of his Grand Lodge of the Spirit, signifying danger, at no matter what border of his Jurisdiction, there will be Paul Reveres upon the other shore? Paul Reveres of 1918, my brethren, ready to carry the warning to their brethren everywhere, and bring to him who gives the G. H. S. of D. the help, aid, and assistance which he needs?

The call has come! The signal light is burning, my brethren, "over there" in France! Over there in that little Masonic club house window it is burning, my brother, and you and I have got to be the Paul Reveres! Somehow, overriding all our prides and our prejudices, we have got to carry that message of danger and of need out through the highways and the byways of America, thereby getting down to the realities of Masonic service! So that every brother who wears the Square and Com-

pass, be he rich or be he poor, will not have to be begged to answer that signal fire, but will come forward and say, "Together, brethren, let it be done!"

"TOGETHER, BRETHREN, LET IT BE DONE" has got to be the battle cry of this Conference, my brethren! I say in all good faith and sincerity that you men can write an agreement to form an "American Bureau of Masonic Affairs"—or call it what you like—so long as you come to the Masonic altar and pledge me to give only what you are willing to give to a cause such as this cause is, and I will sign it! Furthermore, I will go into the Grand Lodge of Iowa next June—or if that is not soon enough, I will call the Grand Lodge of Iowa into special communication next week to consider the result of your deliberations here—and if you will breathe the spirit of American Brotherhood into the document you draw up as a constitution or by-laws or convention or treaty or whatever you call it, I'll guarantee you that the Grand Lodge of Iowa will adopt it, every word! And if we can agree that this is the spirit which shall pervade this convention, there is not a single one of us, and I will venture my knowledge of American Masonry upon it, who will need to be afraid to go back to his Grand Lodge, tell them what he has agreed to, and get them to approve it in the same way.

But we must not stop by merely saying this. We must so organize as to have a representative of this Conference visit each Grand Lodge, and when the matter is presented, interpret the spirit of the whole movement to that Grand Lodge. If good faith shall pervade our every step and movement here, we need not be afraid of being misunderstood. Unless I have absolutely failed to interpret the spirit of this Craft of ours, they will accept the American flag as an emblem of Masonry in such a matter as this. Yes, my brethren, if some of you go home half hearted, and fail to recommend a program such as I have been talking about as strongly as you can, you will find your Grand Lodges ready to approve it anyhow.

Brethren, I have tried to put the present situation before you as I see it. Knowingly or wittingly I have said an unkind word of no one—least of all of any Grand Jurisdiction. I know that the heart of every Grand Lodge in America is right. Can-

not our hearts beat as one, so far as those problems which are American problems are concerned? I believe that they can. I believe that they are so beating at this moment. And if you are of one mind with me upon the subject, then our next order of business should be the sifting of the threads of our problem, and the determination of just what kind of a garment we are going to knit. I don't care whether it is a sweater or a neck-scarf, just so that it fits the subject, and goes *all the way round!* As soon as we know that we are agreed upon this, then we shall know how many knitting committees we need, and how many needles.

Many colors of yarn will be offered. There will be some of different weights and lengths. But when the garment is completed, my brethren, there must be just three colors in it, and each one of the three must match one of the colors in this emblem, to which, in a word, I have tried to ask you to rally (The American Flag). (Prolonged applause.)

I had two reasons, brethren, in writing what I had to say to you. In the first place, I wanted you to know exactly what I did say; and in the second place, if I have gone crazy, I wanted the evidence at hand so that it could be proven. (Laughter.)

Now, there is a way to do business and there is a way to waste a lot of time. It is my impression that what we need to do now is to lay our cards on the table face up. I believe, and I have a lot of faith, that we are all willing to do that; and I am going to usurp all the prerogatives there are to usurp by reading to you a resolution and asking you to vote upon it. It is going to be an expression of your feelings in this matter that calls us here. We are not making any invidious distinctions at all as to Jurisdictions or rites or anything else. I feel that I stand in a conference this morning which represents the supreme brain power of American Masonry. I believe you men know what you want to do, even though none of us may know exactly how we want to do it; and in order that we may really have something before the house, I am going to read this resolution. I am going to offer it if I can have a second.

Grand Master T. P. Warlow (Florida): Second. (Laughter.)

Grand Master Schoonover: Fine. I am going to see if we cannot find a common meeting ground and find it before we eat our next meal. (Applause.)

RESOLUTION

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Conference that there be organized among our several Jurisdictions assenting thereto a unit or body to be known as "The Masonic World Service Administration of the United States," or by some name equally descriptive of its functions, duties and powers, clearly to be defined in a constitution to be adopted hereafter;

That membership therein shall be open to all Masonic Jurisdictions in the United States of America on an equal footing and withdrawal therefrom free at any time on..... days' notice;

That for purposes of government said administration shall act by departments into as many of which departments the United States of America shall be subdivided as will produce the best practical administrative results;

That it shall be the duty of each department within which occurs disaster of greater magnitude than a local calamity, forthwith to assemble, survey the need, appraise it, and advise all jurisdictions of that need and the amount required for its relief as a preliminary or complete remedy, and apportion this sum among the associated jurisdictions on an equal per capita basis, predicated upon the total membership of each such Jurisdiction;

That the first purpose of the Administration shall be the service of mankind, thru education, enlightenment, meditation and relief, particularly in times of disaster and distress, whether caused by war, pestilence, fire, flood, earthquake, or other calamity;

That it have power to enter into correspondence and association with similar agencies in other lands the better to promote the Universality of Brotherhood among all men and Masonry's mission to promote that God blessed cause;

That the powers and duties of the Administration may be enlarged or curtailed from time to time, but no Jurisdiction shall be bound thereto;

That a Committee be appointed to form a constitution in harmony with this outline to be submitted to this Conference for adoption;

That the Organization be presented to our several Grand

Lodges for their consideration by a Committee to be appointed for that purpose;

That the departments shall each meet at least once a year and as much oftener as each shall deem it desirable;

That there shall be a general meeting of all the departments at least once each three years;

That a Secretary or Clerk shall be elected who shall call said meeting when directed so to do by..... jurisdictions for the general meeting.....and by..... jurisdictions in any one department.

Now, I believe I have a second to that resolution, have I not?

Grand Master T. P. Warlow (Florida): Yes, sir; and I will second it again.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, it seems to me as I have thought about it, and I have thought this over pretty carefully, that this resolution as it is now offered consolidates the business before the house, so to speak. It gives us something tangible to think about. We may or may not all be agreed as to the details of its execution, but in order that it may be considered fully, freely, and frankly, with every one of our cards on the table face up, this resolution is going to be in our hands. It is because we ought to have, I think, some conception of what we need, and as we go along and as the evidence is introduced concerning a great many matters which must come before us, we should all the time be thinking, "Does such an organization as this fulfill that particular need or this particular need," as our needs are elucidated.

And in order first to find out just what kind of a sentiment we have in this matter, without committing anybody as to details on this, without committing anybody as to the exact language herein used being promulgated as the official language of the resolution, but simply to get an informal vote which will tell us something of what the real sentiment of our meeting is, I am going right now to ask every brother who is in sympathy with the purposes of this resolution, and with the general form of organization which it proposes to raise his right hand.

Now, mind you, this is no binding vote at all on anybody; it is not intended as such. It is purely an informal statement of our views as we come to this Conference — not as a result of our

debate. As we come to this Conference, are we, or are we not, in a mind to meet one another along the lines laid down in this resolution?

As many as are will please raise their right hand.

As many as do not feel that they are authorized to do this should feel at perfect liberty to so signify, because there is no bad faith impugned here anywhere, nothing of the kind; the man who does not feel that he can act on this as I want to act does not need to feel that he is any the less my brother, not for a moment. I know enough about the action of American Jurisdictions to know just exactly where we stand in this matter. We have no legal rights or legal standing whatever; but, we have the force of public opinion behind us, we have it all over this land of ours, and if we do here what seems to that public opinion to be right and just and true and Masonic, that public opinion will support everything we do.

Now, if there is any one here who feels (because it was so nearly unanimous an expression that I would not attempt to count, I do not want any record of how anybody voted, I do not care) if there is any one who feels now that he cannot enter into the spirit of this resolution as a basis from which to march, I will ask him to so signify by raising his hand, and thus let us know exactly where each one of us stands in so far as the beginning of things is concerned.

There are no hands up. (Applause.)

Brethren, American Masonry is born. (Prolonged applause.)

Grand Secretary W. L. Stockwell (North Dakota): Grand Master, may I tell a story here?

Grand Master Schoonover: Certainly, Brother Stockwell; we will be delighted to hear you.

Grand Secretary Stockwell: It is recorded, I believe, in history that when the Constitutional Convention which met in Philadelphia in 1787 adjourned, Benjamin Franklin, then a very old man, and a representative from the great state of Pennsylvania, arose and pointing to the chair in which George Washington sat and on which is delineated, or was at that time, a half sun, with the rays, said, "Men of America, during the long days of this convention I have been wondering whether

that was a rising or a setting sun. I am now convinced that it is a rising sun." (Applause.)

Grand Master Schoonover: I hope, brethren, that in the discussions which are to follow, and I know now just how big, broad and pure they are going to be, I hope that in those discussions we will consider ourselves, though self-appointed, a committee of the whole to speak and act as volunteers in behalf of American Masonry, according to the dictates of our own consciences. That is all I ask of you, and I pledge it all to you.

Let us just see exactly where we are. There is no doubt but that we are here to talk business. We have some men here who know something about the problems which are before us in certain specialized directions. I have called them here. If you brethren will notice, the badges you wear do not say "Grand Masters' Conference." Before I had this vote I did not dare to have them printed "American Masonic Conference." I think we could do it now. Now we have in some way to begin to crystallize this thing; we must know something about the lines, the directions, the movements, which we are going to make. The resolution which is before us has had simply an expression of opinion upon it. It has not been voted upon. It is sufficiently comprehensive, as I view it, to bring before us every problem that comes within the confines, if I may call it such, of the call for this meeting.

Now, I am open to suggestions as to how we shall proceed. We have a splendid delegation of men from New York. The Conference which was held I believe in May in New York did certain things which it has been my pleasure to roast a little bit. But we know that all these matters are matters which come by growth and not by spontaneous combustion.

Now, how shall we proceed? The immediate compelling phase of the problems which are before us are well known to our brethren from New York. It would be unkind, I think, to ask them to talk before they get a little something to eat, but I am wondering if it is the opinion of the brethren present that it would be advisable in the first instance, in the consideration of the resolution which is now before us, that the New York brethren should first give us the information which they have. I know

but very little about it in detail. I know much about it in a general way. I know that it is going to challenge the brain power of this group to the maximum, and it seems to me that in considering this resolution we ought to have brought before us all possible angles of this great problem and that we should consider those angles very carefully and in what I may call, or have called, the committee of the whole.

If this is considered agreeable, and if our New York brethren feel that such a presentation of their case as they have it is advisable at this time, then perhaps it would be well to make that our first order of business after luncheon. Is that the sense of the meeting generally?

(The response was unanimously in the affirmative.)

(Turning toward the New York delegates:)

Is it your sense that having in view what has now happened, we are ready, in the consideration of the resolution which is before us, to consider the angles of the problem which you are so eminently fitted to explain, not by virtue, *of course*, of your brain power, but by virtue of your location at the greatest seaport on the American coast? So eminently fitted to present to us? Will it be agreeable to you if we consider that immediately after lunch and we now temporarily adjourn? I understand that the luncheon hour is one o'clock.

(Recess taken to 1:30 P.M.)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

NOVEMBER 26, 1918, 2 O'CLOCK

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, we will come to order now. There are two or three things I want to say to you.

In the first place, it may possibly happen that before we get through I may desire to get out on the floor and do some talking. I don't know; I am liable to explode, as you all know. (Laughter.) For that reason, with your consent, and I would like to have your unanimous consent, that my Deputy Grand Master Brother Saxton in such an event may take the chair once in a while and relieve me. Is there any objection to that?

(Unanimous consent was given.)

In the second place, the newspapers are very anxious and have been hounding me to death to get some report of this meeting. I think it extremely important that we control every word that goes into the press and on the wires in regard to this meeting, and I want, again with your unanimous consent if possible, to have the privilege of appointing a Publicity Committee whose duty it will be to prepare a very brief summary of the day's proceedings, in so far as they are proper to be published. Is that agreeable to everybody, and is it thought wise?

(The suggestion was greeted with a chorus of ayes.)

I heard Brother Stockwell say "Aye," and I am going to put him on the committee (laughter); and I think I will put Brother Davilla and Brother Fishel on that committee. They are all three Grand Secretaries, and they know all about what ought to be said.

Another matter has been brought to my attention in regard to these minutes that are being kept, which is this: There will be reasons which will be developed here why these minutes should not be published, perhaps, for some little time. The arrangements made would enable us to publish them very quickly, and we will be able, I hope, to send every one of you home with a

complete and confidential proof copy of these minutes for your own use in connection with the work which may develop here, in your own Jurisdictions; but until that time I think there is no question but that the minutes should all be kept confidential, and they will be so kept.

If any brother at any time wishes to move an executive session — there is no one in the galleries now, but there may be; I have told some of the officers of the bodies here and other brethren have been advised that they might come — if then they do come and any brother wishes to make the session executive, I will clear the galleries for that purpose.

Now, does this give us the absolutely full and complete confidentiality that we want? Is there any objection or any suggestion as to how that condition can be improved? If so, I will be very, very glad to entertain it.

Past Grand Master L. A. Watres (Pennsylvania): May I make a suggestion?

Grand Master Schoonover: Yes, Brother Watres.

Brother Watres: I may be all wrong, for I am wrong a lot of times, but I doubt the wisdom, and at any rate it is a matter of serious thought for a minute or two, of having any Publicity Committee or any publicity. I can readily understand how some Jurisdictions who, not being here, may see in print that we are doing certain things, and I am not so sure what the effect will be. That suggestion, I think, is worth consideration. If I were doing it myself, I would not have a word in print. That, of course, is only offered as a suggestion.

Grand Master Schoonover: I thank you for your suggestion. I apprehend, however, from the personnel of the committee I have already appointed that there is not very much danger of anything coming out except that we are here to eat three square meals a day and to talk among ourselves.

Past Grand Master Watres: All right.

Grand Master Schoonover: To guard against that, both press associations have been notified that we shall hold them responsible if anything is said in regard to this conference in the press of the city or on the wires, that is not officially given to them.

Past Grand Master Townsend Scudder (New York): If the

committee which you have appointed has its powers limited as you have indicated, and there is naught but virtue in the committee, I agree with Brother Watres.

That which comes from this meeting is going to stamp the Masonic fraternity. I do not say which way, though I have my own faith and hope; but that which comes from this committee should be authoritative and every word weighed, and it should come to illuminate, to electrify, if need be. And it must not come as an anti-climax. I think that not a thing should find its way into the press other than that we are here, until that which is done and well done goes forth to the world expressing the Masonic determination of today. (Applause.)

Grand Master Schoonover: The approval given to the sentiments expressed by Brother Watres and Brother Scudder, as I view it, is instructive and binding upon the committee, and unless objection is made, we will so consider it. The committee's duties are not very great yet.

Now, brethren, as I understand it, we determined before the luncheon that as a special order of business, having a direct bearing upon the resolution which is before us, we should hear from the brethren of New York regarding the steps which have been taken and attempted since the Conference which was held in New York last May; and I will ask Grand Master Farmer to present to us what he thinks we ought to know along that line.

Grand Master Farmer (New York): Brother Grand Master and Brethren: I think ere this you all know that New York is in hearty accord with the spirit and letter of that resolution which we have just passed. Today the eyes of symbolic Masonry throughout the United States are centered upon this beautiful city of Cedar Rapids. New York extends greetings to Grand Master Schoonover of Iowa. New York congratulates the members of this great and powerful Jurisdiction upon the zeal and devotion of its Grand Master to the interests of Masonry. It rejoices with them in his foresight and vision, which encompass the needs of the Craft, at present and for the future, as the problems of today and yesterday are succeeded by the ever recurring problems of tomorrow.

New York, and as has been demonstrated, we all accept his

leadership and unreservedly promise support in the undertaking in which he is engaged and in which we are all so much interested. Following the pioneer who blazes the trail, those who come after have erected the proudest of cities, and the greatest of commonwealths. So may we, Brother Grand Masters, safely follow the leadership of Iowa's Grand Master, and we have already set up in this resolution new stones, I believe, more closely cemented than were the old, and we have added strength and unity and symmetry to all the parts of this, our Temple of Masonry.

For more than four years now the world has been on fire in the most tragic of wars. In April, 1917, America was swept within its consuming flames and there are thousands of our brethren, along with the 2,000,000 American soldiers and sailors who have been transported overseas to do their part, and make the supreme sacrifice if necessary, that right and justice and liberty and equality and democracy might be triumphant. That war, happily, is ended. Thank God! But many of our own have made that sacrifice, and they, with many others, have needed, and still many others are needing, such ministrations as only one Mason can give to another, and with the need so great, the Masonic fraternity with all its wealth and resources and its eager desire to lighten the hardships and alleviate the sufferings of our own and the rest of mankind has been compelled to stand idly by and see others permitted to do what we were not permitted to do ourselves. And why? Simply because in all Freemasonry in these United States there is not one representative, responsible, national head, to whom the government at Washington could apply, as such. To whom could the Secretary of State, or of War, or of the Navy, speak authoritatively? To the Grand Master of New York? Certainly not, for he assumed no such dignity, nor could the Grand Master of any of the Grand Jurisdictions so speak.

We saw the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Jewish Welfare Board, the Knights of Columbus, and others all engage in their relief work with government sanction and approval, while we were deprived of the same blessed privilege, simply because they possessed what we had not, some kind of a national head.

Such a condition of affairs has not been conducive of self-respect or peace of mind, and should not be permitted to endure, providing we have the genius and initiative sufficient to cure the defect, and it has been demonstrated here today in the passage of this resolution that we have.

New York comes here with no definite plan or scheme or program. We have nothing we want to put over. With what is evolved from the combined wisdom of this Conference, New York will be in perfect accord and in entire coöperation as long as our deliberations take such form as will be in keeping with the dignity of the fraternity, will be such as will unite the several Grand Jurisdictions into more closely fraternal relations, and as a practical proposition will save us from ever again suffering the humiliation which we found ourselves in at the commencement of this war—for I verily believe that all are of the opinion that a united Masonry then could have been accorded leadership by those in authority at Washington—and that we may take back from this Conference some definite, specific recommendation, is the earnest desire of the delegation from New York, and we are delighted to know that already we can do that very thing, in that we can take back this resolution which has been passed unanimously.

Now, you would like to know, I take it, something of the negotiations of the Grand Lodge of New York with the government at Washington looking towards our going overseas to do our part over there. Is that what I understand you want?

Grand Master Schoonover: Yes, Brother Farmer, without any doubt.

Grand Master Farmer: The present Grand Master of New York, on the day he was installed, appointed a delegation headed by Most Worshipful Brother Scudder to carry on those negotiations. Brother Scudder is here. I do not think he wishes to, but he always follows the command of his Grand Master, and, brethren, if you would like to hear in detail the result of those negotiations, we will give them to you. Would you like to hear?

(The response was unanimously in the affirmative.)

Past Grand Master Scudder (New York): The chairman

this morning in his address to us, outlining what seemed to be the path that we should follow, and pointing out to us as he did the obstacles which seemingly have stood in our way, in the way of the fulfillment of those things which we all know ought to have been done, named two of the ruffians who seemingly blocked the way: one was General Apathy, the other was Disunity. I envy not my brother his twins. (Laughter.) There is a third one I would name for him but disclaim paternity. (Laughter.) The name of the third ruffian is Selfishness. No individual, no aggregation of individuals possesses all of his characteristics, but there abide some powerfully in each individual.

I take it that you brethren here expect to have me more clearly define, or shall I say "expose," this ruffian Selfishness? Well, that I cannot do, and I had better disappoint you forthwith. I can give you facts and from the recitation of those facts you logical, thoughtful, big men can draw your conclusions. More than one conclusion is susceptible of being drawn from those facts. But selfishness is a generic term and we share it, too. Perhaps we alone are responsible for our failure.

Brethren, it is a solemn hour, this hour when a little body of men can get together, and getting together know in their hearts and consciences, that in the hollow of their hands they hold the destiny of the greatest brotherhood the world has ever known.

From now on is it to be a dead weight or a living force? We determine it. This, by way of introduction. I have not a single word of prepared speech. I am doing what I fancy the majority of you brethren will do when it is your burden and embarrassment to stand up here and bare your hearts. I am just thinking out loud of all the things that have gone before, and of the times which have passed in which we have left undone the things which we ought to have done, and we have done the things which we ought not to have done.

Because I am only thinking out loud I have more or less to drift, and I have also perhaps to give you the basis or the reason for my thoughts. Otherwise we can not be in sympathy, for our tongues and our ears will not be attuned to the same tongue or, I may say, the same sound.

Our chairman a moment ago in his address spoke of that

great fraternity so soon to launch its destinies in our country here, the membership of which will be made up of men who took the uniform of the United States and following its flag started out to see that right, and right alone, prevailed, or perish in the cause. And those men inspired by the glorious principles which our government enunciated and proclaimed, went forth believing that they were fighting for a holy cause and were part of the most glorious mission the world or humanity ever sent forth to battle for the right.

Thus exalted are their standards today, and triumphant they return with those standards, and by those standards they will measure us. Shall we be found wanting, or shall we measure? Is it not in the atmosphere? Pick up a newspaper, pick up a magazine, pick up a work of any current author, and what do we all read between the lines, and what is the writing on every wall? Those men who went forth, whether they went as volunteers or whether they went in harmony with that greatest of all democratic institutions, the draft, it matters not, those men will guide the destinies of the United States for years and years to come. To their younger brothers they are going to be heroes, and to the little boys, demi-gods. And where will we stand? When we are measured in the balance of the scales of public opinion, how will our doings contrast with theirs? 'Such little things we pick up.

I was glancing at a Sunday newspaper — Sunday abomination, lots of them. (Laughter.) It was the picture side of it — I forget just what the picture was about — a lot of frivolity, listen, what we can find even there:

“But to the hero, when his sword has won the battle for the free,
Thy voice sounds like a trumpet's word
And in its solemn tones are heard
The thanks of millions yet to be.”

Will the millions yet to be quit with “thanking,” Mr. Chairman? Nay, the millions are going to follow a worth while leadership, and that leadership will be born in the ranks of the boys that went over there.

And so our great fraternity, with all that we boast of glory and accomplishment, all that which has taught us to love it and

cherish it, from today can not appeal to that past with confidence, because from today it is to be judged by the new standard that the world is erecting.

We must come within the rule. Now, thus far, we have not come within the rule, and I know not whether we can advance any excuse. We have tried to. We have tried so to mark our steps in all that we have sought to do, that perchance when the case is heard and thrown in the balance the world will say, "They did the best they could under circumstances which were adverse and over which they could exercise no control."

If we can get off with that, we are lucky. It is true as our chairman indicated this morning, that we were not prepared, any more than our country was prepared, for this great war crisis, and we are perhaps entitled to some consideration for not anticipating that which even our government was not willing to anticipate.

There were voices crying in the wilderness years back when the dogs of war were first unchained on foreign soil. And those voices in the wilderness said, "There is here at stake the cause of right assailed by wrong. And we, a nation the foundation stone of which is justice, cannot sit idly by and take no part in this trouble which is ours, yea, even more than that of others."

But there came forth that proclamation which is law, patriotic law, that neutral we must be; and let it be known to those in high place in governmental circles, as well as to those in low place, that this great fraternity of ours is no political organization. Its duty is to serve God and humanity and to uphold the government of the country where it lives. (Applause.) And so it was right that we should follow the lead of our government, even though in our hearts that lead was not along the best paths. It is one of our ancient landmarks from which we could not depart, and perhaps it is best that that landmark is there never to be departed from.

So if the inquiry is dated back as far as that, let us then say that we could not blame ourselves for a situation with reference to which we were not permitted to express an opinion.

As time went on and education began to spread its light, the

world saw things differently and we saw things differently, and thus it came to pass that in due course evil, made bold by our inaction as a nation, flaunted itself before us and threw down the gage which no nation which had respect for itself could fail to pick up.

So we entered the war, and then it happened that almost in the twinkling of an eye we had to change our whole course of life and conduct but we lacked the machinery necessary to efficiency. We were not prepared, and it took time to try even to work out a solution. Now, so much for ancient history.

Let us turn to more modern events. I mentioned the early ones because I think they offer some excuse, something in extenuation. Now, can we offer that which will be accepted as a valid excuse for our failure, after the ban had been lifted and we were free to act and speak our hearts and proclaim our belief? I think we can. I think our defence is good. It may not be all we would like to have it, but I know of none better, and that defence New York offers to you all, if it possesses value and you would seize it, or if you feel that you may need it, when it may be necessary for you to defend yourselves as we feel we shall some day have to defend ourselves. It is yours if you elect to accept it, and I feel that you should accept it or reject it now.

I do not mean this minute, perhaps not even today; but, in the space of a very few days, because that chapter too is about to be closed. But, the door is yet open and all are free to come in who may find in it any solace for their souls. We find in it some solace for our souls and some comfort in our consciousness of our shortcomings, and our shortcomings are just as great as those of any other Jurisdiction. That little which we have accomplished was done for Masonry in the United States of America, and we wish to God it might have been more. But it is all we have to offer, and we hope it may temper the judgment of the world.

Now, brethren, shortly after the conference in Washington where our fraternity was represented but made no impression upon the government excepting one to efface which required weeks and months of hard work, we sat down in our council

chamber and tried to cipher out a way to meet the situation as that situation existed in our eyes. We knew that our activities would not be permitted in cantonments. We found that in so far as we were permitted to be active at all, our activities were so emasculated that it was almost useless to attempt any great work there. Then we found out something else, and this was not mentioned this morning; but, the thought which was expressed recalls it to my mind. We found out something else when we started a survey to determine the direction our activities might take in the neighborhood of cantonments if not actually within their walls. We found that when the American boy in an American cantonment was offered his leave, he wanted to get out and go home; he did not want to stay in the cantonment, or in the immediate village close by, but he wanted to get home to his own dear people. He wanted to go to the big towns and cities where he could forget his homesickness if home was too far to reach, and thus we found that as matter of fact there was not an impelling demand for great activity in the way of establishing amusements, shows, reading rooms, moving pictures, and all that kind of thing under Masonic auspices on the great white way of cantonments.

We were not of the holiest; we were not permitted inside; the holy of holies was denied to us.

Therefore, having investigated the attendance at such institutions where they had been boldly undertaken, we reached the conclusion that our American boys would be better pleased if we might engage in overseas work, where they were, where the danger was, where the need was, where their restraints were off in a sense, where they did not have the influence of home or the home atmosphere.

The question was, how could we work our way in, for you will recall that door too had been closed to us. We carefully studied the speeches of the Secretary of War, and at last we found something which seemed to give us a peg, at least, upon which to hang our hat. Now, this was before New York called you in conference. At that time we could speak for ourselves alone. We believed, and not only believed but we knew, that if we had anything worth while to offer, the fraternity in the

United States would grasp it just as we would grasp anything anywhere that the fraternity had to offer to us. We knew that we were all in darkness, groping, looking for light, and we in New York needed light as much as any, if not more.

So we decided that we would go to Washington and get in touch with the authorities there, and see what we could thresh out in heart to heart talks.

This we did. We went to Washington and we told them there how great was our desire to serve. We told them that New York alone had with the United States forces fully 15,000 of its members; and that each of those members had a father, and the majority of those fathers were Masons. We told them that we had with the forces approximately the same number of sons of Masons and thus our interest was keen, for our very flesh and blood was there. Our solicitude was righteous and deserved and proper, because it was our own flesh and blood that we had offered our country. We said that we wanted to serve, but we never once said, "We want to serve our own alone." We said, "We want to serve the boys in the American uniform, the uniform of the United States. We want to serve them under Masonic auspices, but we will never inquire of any boy whether he is a Mason or not. The Catholic, the Hottentot are one to us if under our flag and in our uniform, a latch string hangs out and our house and our homes are theirs, and they will be a part and parcel of that home." So we were not selfish in our demands.

Here we were, of course, met by this question: "Whom do you represent?" And, of course, we had to say, "At this moment we speak for New York, but that will only be for a time, for just as soon as we can say to the Masons of the United States that this work is within their grasp, Masonry in the United States will be a unit; Masonry in the United States will be as one, and will undertake this work." That was scoffed at, I can say. Our attention was invited to Masonic publications, pamphlets, newspapers, and what they had said and their criticism, and, of course, the government, the War Department, seemed to feel that it was aggrieved and had just cause to be aggrieved because when it had unfortunately, unwittingly, entirely innocently, made a ruling without any *arriere pensée*, as

the French say, whatever it is in English — mental reservation — when they were innocent we condemned them, and there was seemingly a feeling there that the Masons had not been fair and just. Of course, our position had to be explained. We said, “You admitted one secret society and a sectarian secret society at that, into all these activities, and immediately closed the door and said, ‘None other shall enter.’ Are you free from blame?”

To this the reply came that it was done through a misapprehension and under the belief that the Knights of Columbus bore to the Catholic church a relationship similar to that of the Y. M. C. A. to the Protestant church.

Nothing more need be said on that score.

We then decided as we were invited to, to express as briefly as we could on paper that which we Masons of New York hoped to do, and also to express as briefly as we could how we thought all Masons could join in that work, so that there would be no division in our own ranks if the work should appeal to any and they cared to enter into it. So we did jot down on paper and send to the War Department an outline of the work which we had in mind.

I think perhaps all of you gentlemen may have been brought into touch with these proceedings, through the minutes of the conference of Grand Masters held in New York in May. If you have, then the story is old to you. For the benefit of those who do not know, I will very briefly recite it, to the end that their minds may be in harmony with our own as we proceed in our discussion.

We told the government in these words how we felt: That this plan of work of ours was sufficiently elastic to open and let in all who cared to come in, and I now read to you our exact phraseology:

“Should it happen that other Masonic jurisdictions care to join in this work, it is the wish of the New York Masons that they be privileged so to do on an even footing and in conjunction with New York; or, if such other jurisdictions have other plans which meet the approval of the Department, New York will be glad to join in furthering them, our ambition being to serve usefully.”

Brethren, see right at the very outset we tried to make it so

that there would be no head, no tail, no middle, but a great band of brethren, each with hands extended and clasping the hands of his brother next to him, marching in unison, all for the good of the cause.

We were told by word of mouth that the permit would be granted to us and that we would be permitted to enter into the activities overseas, and that the plan was approved. We were told that before we wrote the foregoing letter, but we were told it was essential to have a letter on file in the Department to the end that the Department might formally act upon it; and just as soon as we had that approval, if my memory serves me correctly, that is, the approval by word of mouth, we sent out the invitation to all the Jurisdictions to come to New York, if they could, to share with us in the decision of what we ought to do, and the responsibility of this work, if in their wise judgment it was deemed worth while.

In the meantime, and while we were awaiting your replies, we received the official approval of our plans, and it is the only approval of any Masonic relief work which the government of the United States has granted to any Masonic body anywhere. It is signed by the chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, and it reads:

"I have your interesting letter of April 16th, outlining the work which the New York Masons desire to undertake in Europe in connection with the welfare of our troops. I am gratified to know that your Commission is sailing soon, and I can promise you the full support of the War Department in the prosecution of your work.

"Please let me know if at any time I can be of any assistance.

"Cordially yours,

"Raymond D. Fosdick, Chairman."

Now, that is the only permit since the day the war opened until today, unless it be that another is waiting at home; that is the only permit which the government has granted to the Masonic fraternity or any subdivision of it to go overseas to engage in war relief work with our troops. I say it advisedly, and if it should happen that in the heart of any there was a doubt or question, at the proper time I would like to ask him to present it in

such form as he may see fit, and I will gladly give him the facts.

Our conference was called. Of course, we could not sail and act in good faith until we had afforded you the opportunity of enjoying what we thought was the beginning of the discharge of that duty so dear to our hearts. We did not want to go alone; that is all there was to it. The money, we didn't care a snap about. That did not interest us. We had all the money that was needed to begin the thing and to carry it on for several years, if it was needed. The money did not enter into it; but we did feel that the heart of the fraternity was in it, and the soul and salvation of the fraternity was in it, and we could not and we would not be selfish to the extent of excluding any others from that salvation, particularly our beloved brethren.

It happened the chairman of that Committee on Training Camp Activities in the War Department at Washington was about that time sent to Europe by the Secretary of War to make a close investigation of conditions over there, and he wrote another letter, which letter we received just before the Conference in New York, and it confirmed us in our absolute conviction that we had the confidence of the government; that it believed in us and in our disinterested service.

Here is what he wrote:

"Confidentially, I am sailing for France next week to look up the whole matter of recreation for the troops both in France and England. Is there anything that we ought to say to each other before I go? When does your mission start, and are there any further plans that have been developed?"

"Cordially yours,

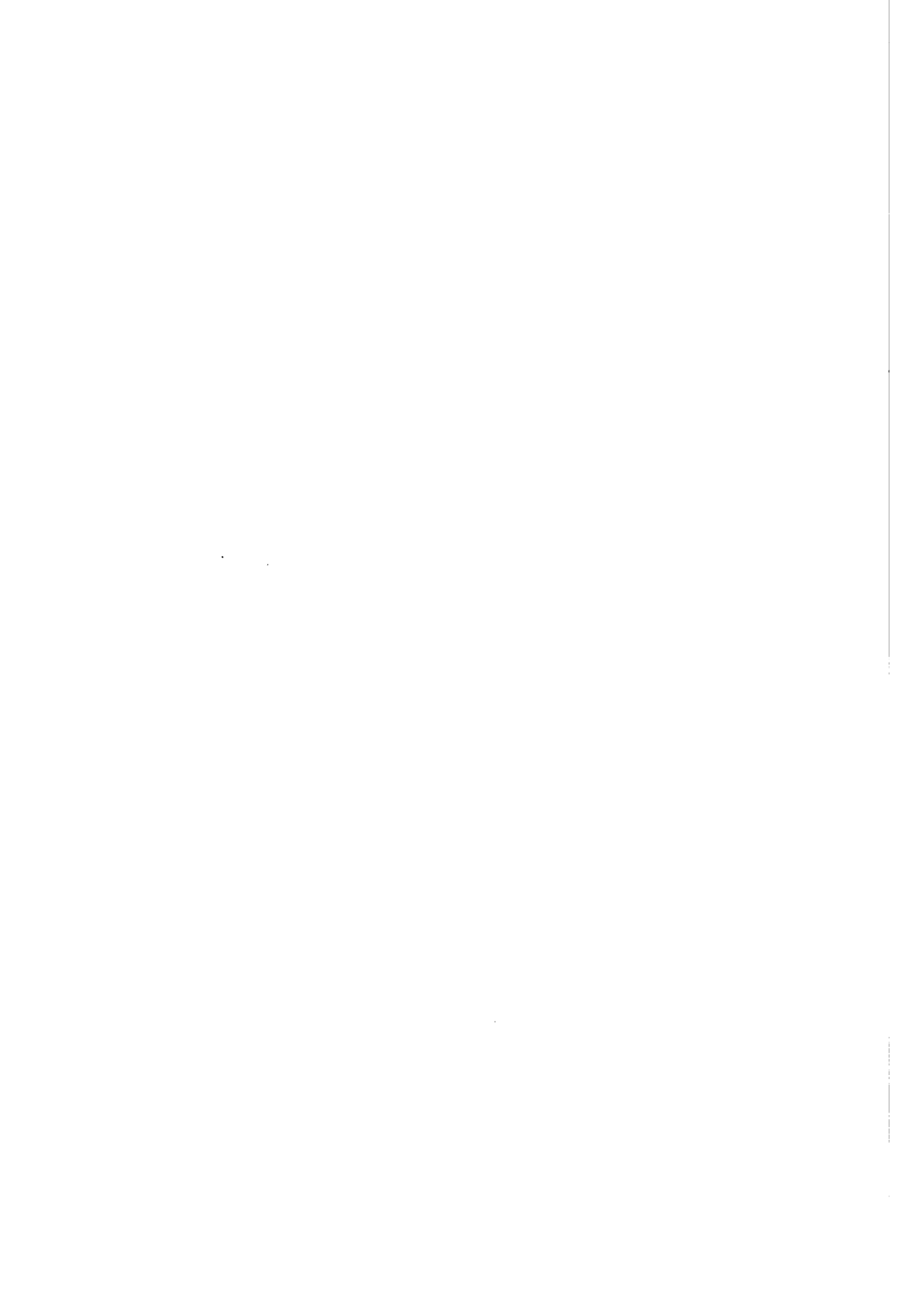
"Raymond D. Fosdick, Chairman."

Could a more intimate relationship have been established than this confidential communication coming to us? Why, we thought our cause did not have to be pleaded; it was obvious that there was no need of further presenting the case and proving it. It was admitted.

And then, brethren, you gladdened our hearts by coming to our Jurisdiction, and around the table we sat and tried to discuss how best we might labor to perform our full duty. Of course, the thing was brand new to some. They had not had



MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE



the chance that we had had to study it and ponder over it for months in order to negotiate with Washington privately and wisely in our effort to bring them around to a right way of seeing things. They had not had the hard up-hill struggle that had been ours to break down the fetish believed in by some that because a man has committed himself and said a thing, whether right or wrong, he must stick by that thing.

And so you came, those of you who were able to come. Many could not come. It seems that we chose our time illy. We did not know it, but we had to act quickly, we had to get under way, as we saw it, immediately, you had but little notice, we could not consult with you as to the time and place. We simply had to say, "Come on such a date." But many had expressed their sentiments as harmonizing with our own, and many who could not come, we knew from what they had written to us, were with us in any undertaking, and that we could call upon them for anything, and that they would contribute their part if it was a question of funds, on a footing with ourselves, so that the work could go on. And, under our arrangement with the Department, if any wanted their men to come in, why, this elastic plan we had was going to stretch, all were going to come right in under it, and there was not going to be a head, or a tail, or a middle, but a united fraternity engaged in a world-wide service and a service which the critical times demanded as a matter of duty as well as a matter of right. For it was our right to go, and we contended from the beginning it was our right to go, and that no one take away that right.

Brethren, we did receive some little discouragement during the course of the deliberations in New York. We found, first, that the second, the less comely of our brother's twins here, was an obstreperous youth, away beyond his years in precociousness. He insisted that he had to play the game alone. He insisted that if he was to take part in this relief work, he had to take part in it by himself. True, he would coöperate on the other side when he got there, because that would be the path of least resistance, but he would go it alone. That his Jurisdiction never parted with a cent excepting they knew somebody whom they could call to account and subsequently put in prison

if he had stolen the money. That was the spirit of it, and it was shared by others, and we saw that, perhaps, there was some virtue in all that, because the prisons often do shut in lots of virtue. But there it was, and we knew that that thing meant destruction. We knew that if that thing got back to Washington, the door was slammed in our face tight shut. We knew Washington would never grant — for we had been told it — forty-nine permits to forty-nine Jurisdictions of the Masonic fraternity to go to Europe and engage in war relief services. “Either you go as one, or you do not go at all.” We knew that.

But, brethren, it happened that the permit to engage in overseas relief work was given to New York and we of New York were so fearful that there might be offense because we had it, that we did not dare at that time to be quite as outspoken as the town in which I live has the reputation of being — I live in Oyster Bay. (Laughter and applause.)

So what we tried to do, as far as we could, (and we were justified in the attempt whether we failed or not), was to show that this was a plan open to the Masonry of the United States, and so it was, for in our only paper recorded with the War Department setting it forth, there was that clause to which already I have referred and to the effect that if any other jurisdiction wished to engage in it, or in any other war relief work which the Department should select, we all should go in on an equal footing in that work, and if the other work was better, New York would quit its work and would join the others.

So that was the basis, though, of course, we could not speak for you because we had not been authorized to speak for you.

As a result of that conference in New York, this did happen: that three Grand Lodges felt they ought not to vote upon that miserable little resolution which said we did not know anything. (Laughter.)

I have begun to think that perhaps they were justified in not voting, because of that confession. But after all they were the ones that inserted that know nothing clause, and I, for the life of me, could not see why they should object to fathering that which they had avowed. It is not like our brother here (indicating Grand Master Schoonover) who accepts full responsibility for his creations.

But anyway, those dear brethren who did not see the thing our way and did not vote with us, did tell us confidentially and privately that they felt that coöperation on the other side, once the independent bodies had gotten over there, would doubtless come, as a matter of necessity, because necessarily they would not say to a brother whom they were going to relieve, "Where do you come from?" "I came from Montana." "Well, I am awful sorry, but you haven't got my brand. I must find a fellow that comes from my state, and relieve *him*." So they said, as a matter of fact, "We shall have to relieve everybody, and so there will have to be coöperation over there, but we cannot have it over here, and we cannot go over as a body."

After the New York Conference some more Jurisdictions did say, "Yes, we are with you in anything you do. Go right over." Whereas others felt that they preferred to shinny in their own yard, and seemed not displeased that there was a big fence around the yard, and no danger of the ball getting over.

However, after we had waited a reasonable time, as we saw it, to enable the several Jurisdictions, who might feel that not only did they want us to represent them over there in the beginning, but also did not want to send men themselves, to reach their decision, we decided that it was time for us to get under way. You see, we had explained to them that we would not start any earlier than we felt was necessary. In substance we said: "We are going to wait after this meeting as long as we can, so that if any of you feel that to this mission you would like to add your number of men, you may do so, and as we appreciate full well that it will take you time to deliberate over this, when you get back home, and in order to give you an opportunity to talk it over with the men in your Grand Lodge in whom the Grand Lodge has placed confidence, before reaching your conclusion, we will postpone the sailing of our men so as to give you ample time to discuss this matter and decide whether you want to have your men go, for we apprehend it will be easier to get the passports for all at one time than it will if we try to start on a piecemeal basis." Of course, we had before us that declaration that there would not be issued forty-nine separate jurisdictional passports. That there would be issued but one permit for Masonic service, and that we all had to get in under it.

Now, that was not an unreasonable demand on the part of the government; and after we had waited that reasonable time, and after we had received numerous letters from brethren to whom the result of our meeting had gone asking us to represent them, to go ahead, and to tell them what was needed, and that whatever was wanted they would supply it; and after we had delayed just as long as we felt we could, we decided to take out our passports. Up to that time there was not a ripple on the surface, and we were absolutely ignorant that there had been, or was, the slightest change in the situation. We went to Washington and there we took up the letters which were waiting for us at the War Department to present to the State Department. This letter was signed May 6th. It was held by the War Department until we should call there to get it. I will read it to you. It is from the War Department and is addressed to the Honorable, the Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.:

"Sir:

"Mr. Justice Scudder, of the Supreme Court of New York, is the chairman of a commission of five men representing the Masons of New York, who are applying for passports to study the situation overseas as far as the leisure time activity of our troops is concerned, with the idea of providing whatever may be necessary both for their own constituent membership and those in the army who may need their services.

"We have already approved the issuance of passports to two other fraternal organizations, and I am sincerely hopeful that no objection will be interposed in the case of Judge Scudder's commission."

This letter from the War Department to the Secretary of State, picked up by us in Washington after the New York Conference, was in perfect confidence carried by us to the Secretary of State's office, because having had some experience in Washington ways acquired during a couple of terms that I served in Congress there some twenty years ago, and having served there on the Committee of Foreign Affairs which dealt with those things which concern ourselves and foreign nations, I thought that the etiquette of the situation demanded that this letter first should be delivered to the Secretary of State, or to someone in his office.

So I went to the office of the Counsellor to the Secretary of

State, and asked what course I should pursue. I was told to take the letter down to the Passport Bureau. Mr. Polk's secretary said: "I will call them up and tell them you are coming so as to obviate any delay, and the matter will be given immediate attention." So I stood there while the Passport Bureau was called up. I heard the conversation, as far as you can hear one end of a conversation, and I could supply the rest. It seems the head of the Bureau was not in, and would not be in, but his deputy was in, a gentleman by the name of Walsh or Welch. He was told that we were coming to take up the passports, and to facilitate our progress in every way that he could.

So we went around to the Passport Bureau, which we found filled with a crowd of people. I sent in my card; a man came out, asked who we were. I told him that we were the men about whom the Secretary of State's office had spoken to him a few moments before on the telephone. He said, "What can I do to serve you?" I said, "It will probably take a few moments. Shall we sit down? I see you have some people in your private office, and we will gladly await our turn." He said, "That is very kind of you, and I will get rid of them as soon as I can."

I did not care to announce our business out in the main ante room, which was crowded. In a very few moments we were shown into his office. "Now," he said, "what is it you wish?" I said, "We are here to obtain the passports for the Masonic mission going overseas to engage in war relief work in the recreation centers of our soldiers." "I am opposed to it," were the laconic words which greeted us. Of course, this was but a clerk in an office, seemingly vested with no great discretion. I said to him, "But the War Department has passed upon this. Are you conscious of that fact?" "Oh," he said, "the War Department does not decide these things." I said, "Who does?" He said, "We do." I said, "Who are 'we'?" "Why," he said, "it is decided here in the first instance." I said, "Where is it decided in the last instance?" "Well," he said, "of course, ultimately it may get to the Secretary of State." I said, "Then you are the tribunal to whom this matter must now be presented?" "Yes," he said. I said,

“Very well, then. We will sit down and I will go over it gladly with you again.” He said, “It is quite unnecessary.” “But,” I said, “my dear sir, you certainly want to have the facts, do you not?” He said, “You told them to me and I know it all. You are a Masonic mission seeking to go overseas to engage in war relief work. We do not approve of it. If you are permitted to have your passports and to engage in this work, then we have got to permit every other secret society to engage in the same work which would include every Greek letter society applying for permission so to do. We cannot do it.” I said, “I hardly anticipated this situation. I could not myself render judgment upon a matter coming before me on as little evidence as you have here, and I really feel it should be more deliberately presented and considered.” He said, “That is quite unnecessary. Quite unnecessary. If you want to file your papers here, you can, of course.” I said, “We have our papers here and I will file them here, but you do not need to act upon them. I shall certainly take the matter up in other quarters, for I think there must be some misunderstanding.” He said, “We won’t act upon them until we hear from higher up,” or something of that kind, and we parted.

Now, gentlemen, that is the beginning. That was the first flash of lightning giving warning of the coming storm, and our surprise was just as keen as I have no doubt yours has been, as I have tried simply to present the facts to you, giving you the substance of the conversations as I recall them.

From here on what I have to say I do not feel should be reported: it is all coming out, it is all in documentary form. The story is told of the successive steps that we took, but that chapter has not been closed and it is not right as I see it that it should be here, or anywhere else, recorded until in its entirety it is spread before the Craft, and then because it will not only be spread before the Craft but because it will be an open book which all who have eyes can read, it seems to me, to the end that it may then go forth with all its faults and all its force, it should go forth then in its novelty, in its newness, in its complete and finished state, and not in the halting way that I must present it now, picking out only so much of the various documents to read

as seem to me the limited time and your patience to listen will permit. So I am going to ask that the stenographers, Mr. Chairman, because I am going to read papers that are official, over signatures which we must respect, and because I cannot give all the story now, be directed by you to turn their books down. The whole of it you will have in a very few days to put in here, but it must not go into this proceeding in this broken, disconnected form.

If that is understood, I can proceed; if it is not understood, I can not proceed because the President of the United States enters into it and we owe to him every respect.

Past Grand Master Lawler: It has come to my knowledge that Past Grand Master John W. Barry of Iowa, an old and loved friend of mine, lies very ill at his home, here in Cedar Rapids. It seems to me that this Conference, in recognition of Brother Barry's long service to the Freemasonry of Iowa, should send to him a resolution of sympathy in his hour of pain, conveying our hopes for his early recovery. I move that this be done.

(It was unanimously carried, and a committee appointed to draft the resolutions and see that they were properly engrossed for presentation to Past Grand Master Barry.)

(Upon motion, duly adopted, the meeting went into executive session.)

(Adjourned to 7:30 o'clock)

(Note. The efforts of the Grand Lodge of New York, on behalf of the Masonic fraternity in the United States, to obtain the consent of the government to engage in war relief work with the United States Forces overseas were summarized in an exhaustive extemporaneous report by Judge Scudder during the executive session, and stenographic notes of that report were not made. The details of that report having now been reduced to writing, and the negotiations with the various governmental departments having been closed, as will be seen hereafter, the final report is herewith set out in these minutes, in order that the reader may have all of the information upon which the action of the Conference at Cedar Rapids was based.)

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REPORT OF THE MASONIC OVERSEAS MISSION

ON EFFORTS TO SECURE GOVERNMENTAL PERMISSION
TO ENGAGE IN INDEPENDENT WAR
RELIEF WORK ABROAD

*To THE M. W. WILLIAM S. FARMER, Grand Master of
Masons in the State of New York, and to all Masonic Grand
Jurisdictions in the United States participating in the efforts
to induce our government to consent to overseas service by
the Masonic fraternity in the interest of our forces engaged
in the great war.*

Brethren, as chairman of the Commission appointed in 1917, by M. W. Thomas Penney, Grand Master, and confirmed in such appointment by you in 1918, to organize in Europe war relief for the benefit of our men in the army and navy, and to secure the permission of the government of the United States to that end, I have the honor to make the following report. Although appointed in the first instance by the Grand Master of Masons in New York, the Commission was thereafter, by the Grand Masters of many of our Sister Jurisdictions, appointed and designated as their own.

In order that the readers of this report may properly understand our efforts to engage in overseas work, and trace the steps taken by us to that end, it is necessary to begin with a conference held in the office of the Secretary of War in October, 1917. At this conference a large number of fraternal organizations were represented.

This conference was held at the invitation of the Secretary of War for the purpose of discussing, and considering the modification of, an order previously made by him which excluded Freemasons and other fraternities and associations from engaging in welfare work within military camps and accorded that

privilege exclusively to the Young Men's Christian Association and the Knights of Columbus. This order had been made without notice to the Masonic fraternity or opportunity afforded it to be heard in the matter of its desire to participate in such service, to engage in which it was at all times ready, willing, and financially able without soliciting outside assistance.

This conference resulted in a statement by the Secretary that thereafter camps and cantonments of the army would be open for the erection and use of buildings therein by fraternal, benevolent, or similar societies of recognized and well-established character, having members in such camps or cantonments, upon permission first obtained from the officer commanding the camp or cantonment in question. The Masonic fraternity in New York state thereafter endeavored to take advantage of the Secretary's announcement, but met with little encouragement on the part of the military authorities. Balked in these efforts, the fraternity devoted itself to social work for the benefit of our soldiers and sailors, in the communities immediately adjacent to the camps, and also in the large cities visited by the men on leave.

About this time the transatlantic movement of our troops began, and because of this fact the extension of our fraternity's activities to foreign lands was determined upon if governmental sanction thereto could be secured.

Public announcement had been made that the government of the United States would establish abroad what were described as "leaveareas," whither, and whither alone, our soldiers on leave would be permitted to go. Recalling the obstructions thrown in the way of our previous attempts at service *in* camps, and pondering on this announcement relative to the so-called "leaveareas," light seemed suddenly shed upon the perplexing problem confronting us, and our course to the goal of Masonic war relief made plain by the announcement in an address of the Secretary of War that the major help to be rendered by fraternal societies was in the communities outside of, rather than in, the camps themselves. Steps were promptly taken to carry this idea into effect, and it was learned that the Commission on Training Camp Activities, a body within the War Department, had jurisdiction

over all social service activities similar to those projected by our fraternity. At the head of this Commission on Training Camp Activities was, and still is, Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick.

I forthwith placed myself in communication with Hon. William M. Calder, senator from New York, by addressing to him the following letter:

"April 7, 1918.

"Hon. William M. Calder,

"United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Senator Calder:

"The Freemasons in New York State have, by reason of many appeals from Europe, become impressed with the belief that there exists abroad today a new field for helpful service by the fraternity, and this field lies not in the camps of the United States armies, but in the cities behind the lines, to which our soldiers go when on leave.

"These communications from abroad confirm a statement of the Secretary of War at a meeting held at the War Department on October 29, 1917, in which he said that he was of the opinion that the major help to be rendered by fraternal societies is in the communities outside rather than in the camp itself, from which the soldier wants to go whenever he has an opportunity.

"The idea in mind is that we found and maintain in cities in France, to which our soldiers will go when on leave, quarters in the nature of clubs, open to our men in the service, where they may receive and entertain their friends, and where they will find periodicals and newspapers from the United States, stationery for letter-writing, and modest opportunities for indulging their musical tastes.

"Our object is to cheer the spirits of the men, to direct, by this instrumentality, into proper channels the natural longing of the men for amusement and diversion, and to afford a place for social recreation.

"Similar activities we contemplate extending to Italy, as occasion shall present.

"Furthermore, in Switzerland we propose to establish an agency for the amelioration of the condition of our men taken prisoners of war. We wish, also, to be free to go to England, for the reason that the establishment of one or more such agencies there may be deemed advantageous, and because the commission desires to obtain the benefits, derived from personal conferences as suggested by English Freemasons, of the experience of English Masons in similar service.

"The commission to organize this work abroad will consist of four or five members appointed by the Grand Master of Masons in the state of New York. Four of the members are:

"Townsend Scudder, Past Grand Master, and Justice of the Supreme Court of New York. Erastus C. Knight, of Buffalo, N. Y., ex-Mayor of Buffalo and ex-Comptroller of the state of New York. William C. Prime, of Yonkers, N. Y., a member of the New York bar. Rougier Thorne, of Glen Cove, N. Y., a New York business man.

"All expenses of this enterprise will be borne by the fraternity. We are hopeful, however, of receiving the countenance of the United States authorities.

"I am informed that Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick, in charge of training camp activities, is the official to whom such a project should be submitted. Is this so? If it is, will you kindly arrange that I can have an interview with him when I come to Washington? If he is not the proper official, who is?

"We would, of course, require passports. What are the proper steps to take to secure these?

"Your assistance in all this will be highly appreciated.

"Faithfully yours,

"Townsend Scudder."

In reply I received a telegram from Senator Calder, as follows:

"Postal Telegraph

Commercial Cables

TELEGRAM

"167NYDO 37 Govt 83OP

St Washn DC Apr 9

"Hon. Townsend Scudder, Supreme Court Chambers

"16 Court St., Bklyn, N. Y.

"Have made appointment for you to meet Raymond Fosdick in Washington eleven o'clock Friday morning. Come to Willard for breakfast eight-thirty.

"Wm. M. Calder."

Accompanied by Bro. Erastus C. Knight, I journeyed to Washington, met Senator Calder, and with him called upon Mr. Fosdick. To him was communicated in full our aspirations to engage in war relief work overseas and the insistent demand therefor coming from members of our fraternity then in service abroad. Mr. Fosdick then said that, although he was not a Mason, his grandfather had been, and he, the speaker, was in sympathy with the ideals of the fraternity and conversant with

its past history of service in the cause of humanity. He then went on to say that, in matters of service such as the one under discussion, the United States government required a responsible head of an organization with which it contemplated dealing, and pointed out the difficulties in the path of members of civilian organizations who might seek to engage in war relief abroad. He said that the government was endeavoring to coördinate all such agencies and unite them in service as far as possible because of the embarrassment due to the multiplicity of credentials and the burden these placed upon the Allied governments and our military authorities. He further said that he understood that the Masonic fraternity in the United States was "a disjointed organization," every state being a separate jurisdiction, in addition to which there were numerous other Masonic bodies, none of them in this country owing allegiance to any one head organization.

"The United States War Department," he said, "cannot issue 49 separate permits to as many different Masonic Jurisdictions. The best it could do would be to issue one permit to the fraternity, under which all would have to come, for which purpose a single head or committee would be necessary which would represent the entire Masonic fraternity in this country, with which the government could deal and which it could hold responsible."

In reply he was told that, while it was true that there were these various independent Masonic bodies and Jurisdictions, they were, nevertheless, in complete harmony in the desire for this service, and would surely unite on a single committee to handle this work, were governmental approval given to a practical plan of operations which would meet the fraternity's hopes and desires.

After considerable discussion of this point, Mr. Fosdick was so far convinced of the future unity of the fraternity in this matter that we proceeded to a discussion of the purposes we had in view and of a plan to carry them into execution. At the outset of this part of the conference he was told that our fraternity stood ready to adopt any plan of service which the government might desire us to follow, and at our own exclusive expense. In response, he asked if we had not some plan formulat-

ed to this end. In response to this inquiry, our tentative plan was outlined to him.

A lengthy discussion of this plan resulted in his hearty approval, because, as he said, "there could not be too much of this sort of work." He further stated that if the project were reduced to writing and sent to him, he would take up the matter with Mr. Baker (Secretary of War), but that he could now promise the approval of the War Department thereto.

The foregoing is, it must be understood, only the substance of the conversations with Mr. Fosdick. There were two conferences on that day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and the discussion was long and earnest. At these two conferences Mr. Fosdick displayed a mind open to conviction and a judgment apparently totally unbiased, so much so that the final impression he made upon us was his evident desire to avail himself of our proffered services, even to the extent of thanking the Masons for offering to contribute their personal services and financial resources to the welfare of our soldiers and sailors.

This interview was followed by a letter, dated April 16, 1918, addressed to Mr. Fosdick as chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, outlining the tentative plan of the fraternity:

"April 16, 1918.

"Raymond B. Fosdick, Esq.,

"Chairman, Commission on Training Camp Activities,

"War Department, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Fosdick:

"Agreeable to your suggestion, I have pleasure in outlining work New York Masons desire to undertake in Europe, to the end that you may present it to the Secretary of War.

"The Freemasons in New York state have, by reason of many appeals from Europe, become impressed with the belief that there exists abroad today a new field for helpful service by the fraternity, and that this field lies not in the camps of the United States armies, but in the cities behind the lines, to which our soldiers go when on leave.

"These communications from abroad confirm a statement of the Secretary of War at a meeting held at the War Department on October the 29th, 1917, in which he said that he was of the opinion that the major help to be rendered by fraternal societies is in the communities outside rather

than in the camp itself, from which the soldier wants to go whenever he has an opportunity.

"The idea in mind is that we found and maintain in cities in France and Great Britain, to which our soldiers will go when on leave, quarters in the nature of clubs, open to our men in the service, where they may receive and entertain their friends, and where they will find periodicals and newspapers from the United States, stationery for letter-writing, and modest opportunities for indulging their musical tastes.

"Our object is to cheer the spirits of the men, to direct, by this instrumentality, into proper channels the natural longing of the men for amusement and diversion, and to afford a place for social recreation.

"Similar activities we contemplate extending to Italy as occasion shall present.

"Furthermore, in Switzerland we propose to establish an agency for the amelioration of the condition of our men taken prisoners of war. We wish, also, to be free to go to England, because, besides the establishment of such agencies there as may be deemed advantageous, the commission desires to obtain the benefit derived from personal conferences suggested by English Freemasons, of the experience of English Masons in similar service.

"The commission to organize this work abroad will consist of four or five members appointed by the Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. Four of the members are: Townsend Scudder, Past Grand Master, and Justice of the Supreme Court of New York. Erastus C. Knight, of Buffalo, N. Y., ex-Mayor of Buffalo and ex-Comptroller of the state of New York. William C. Prime, of Yonkers, N. Y., a member of the New York bar. Rougier Thorne, of Glen Cove, N. Y., a New York business man.

"All expenses of this enterprise will be borne by the fraternity. We are hopeful, however, of receiving the countenance of the United States authorities.

"New York has in the service about ten thousand Masons.

"Should it happen that other Masonic Jurisdictions care to join in this work, it is the wish of the New York Masons that they be privileged so to do on an even footing and in conjunction with New York, or, if such other Jurisdictions have other plans which meet the approval of the Department, New York will be glad to join in furthering them, our ambition being to serve usefully.

"I am enclosing a copy of the pledge that is required of candidates in the service who join the Masonic fraternity through our Military Lodge. This Lodge is endeavoring to

encourage and strengthen the young men and to cheer fathers giving their sons to the country's service.

"We are open to any suggestion the Secretary of War cares to make.

"Thanking you for your courtesy,

"Sincerely,

"Townsend Scudder."

The pledge referred to in the foregoing letter, and enclosed with it, is as follows:

**SEA AND FIELD LODGE, NO. 1, F. & A. M.,
NEW YORK**

We undertake to maintain our part of the war free from hatred, brutality or graft, true to the American purpose and ideals.

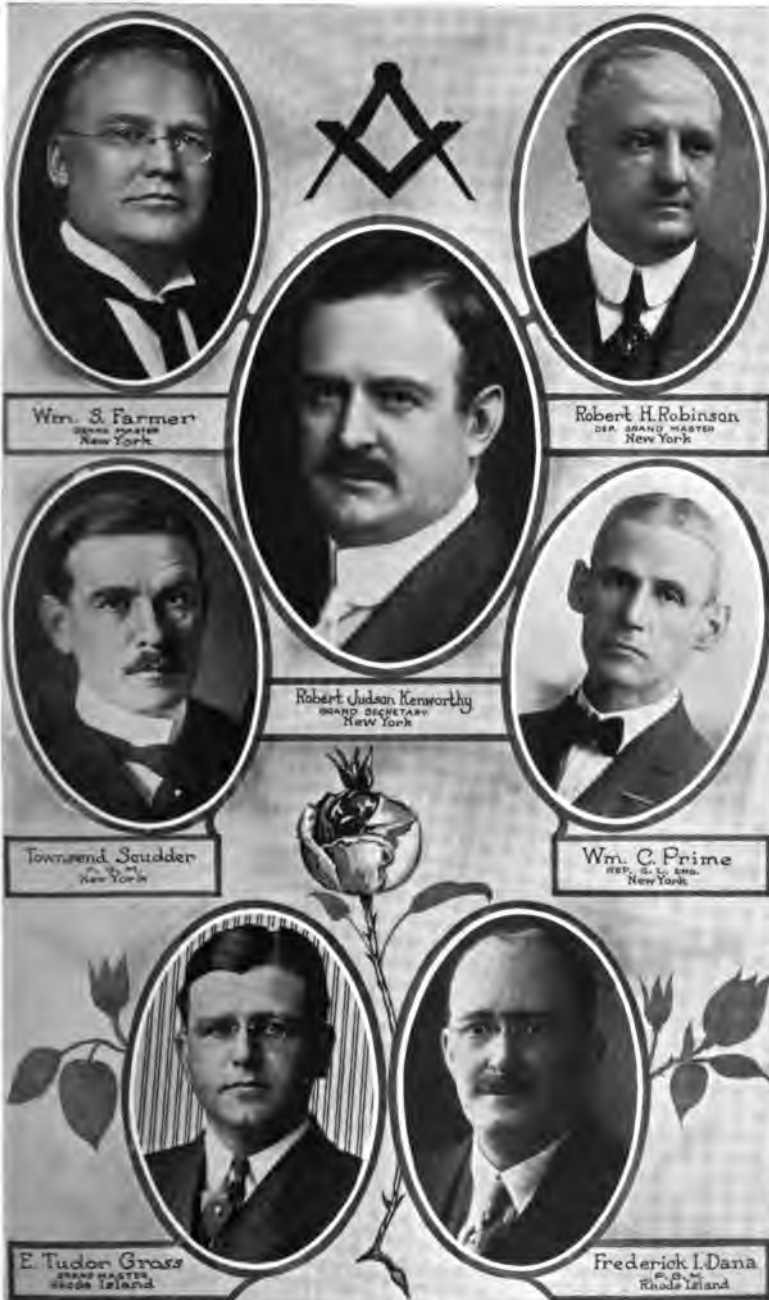
Aware of the temptations incidental to camp life and the moral and social wreckage involved, we covenant together to live the clean life and to seek to establish the American uniform as a symbol and guaranty of real manhood.

We pledge our example and our influence to make these ideals dominant in the American Army and Navy.

Particular attention is called at this point in the report to the designedly elastic nature of the plan outlined in the foregoing letter. This was so drawn up that any Masonic body or Jurisdiction thereafter wishing to participate in this movement could do so.

It being proposed to open recreation houses in leaveareas, one in each, the more Masonic bodies participating, contributing their respective financial resources, the more leaveareas could be covered. This elasticity of plan was emphasized in the conferences with Mr. Fosdick, and was thoroughly understood by him when his approval was given. The object was, obviously, to enable any and all Masonic bodies to participate in the projected work abroad, and, at the same time, by so uniting them all in one project, thereby comply with the unalterable decision of our government to grant permission to Freemasons for overseas service only in case all Masonic bodies desiring to take part were united in the enterprise.

On April 19th, no word having been received from Mr. Fosdick, and wishing to impress upon him as strongly as possible the loyalty of the fraternity to the government, and its purpose to do nothing which might in the least embarrass the latter, I



Wm. S. Farmer
GRAND MASTER
New York

Robert H. Robinson
DEP. GRAND MASTER
New York

Robert Judson Kenworthy
GRAND SECRETARY
New York

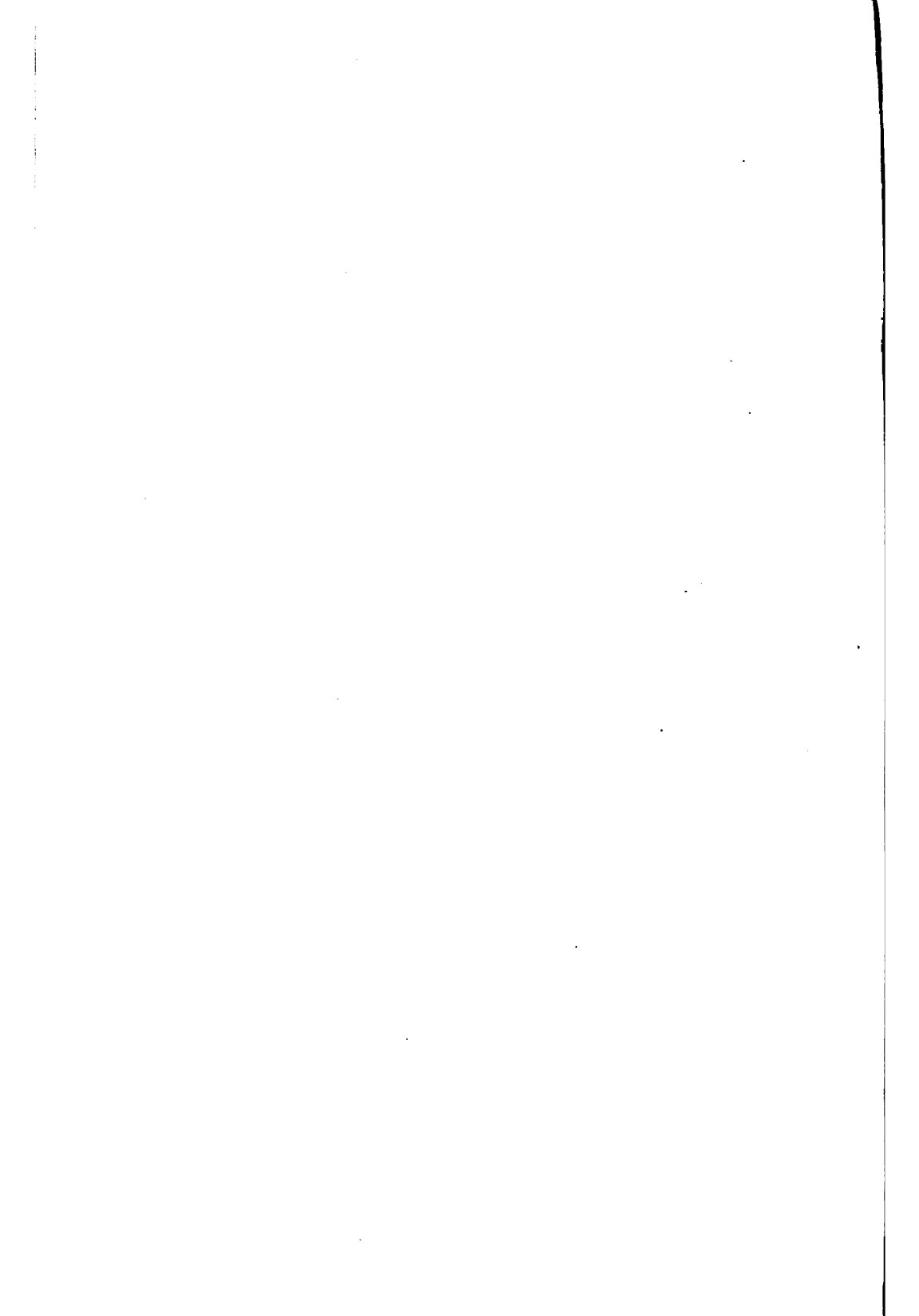
Townsend Scudder
New York

Wm. C. Prime
H.P., G. L., E.M.
New York

E. Tudor Grass
GRAND MASTER
Rhode Island

Frederick I. Dana
P. M.
Rhode Island

MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE



wrote to Mr. Fosdick, enclosing a letter, dated October 29, 1917, sent by Grand Master Thomas Penney of New York to the Grand Masters of the forty-eight other Masonic Jurisdictions in the United States, the sentiments expressed in which letter had been approved by our Sister Jurisdictions, and the plan of action therein outlined endorsed.

"April 19, 1918.

"Hon. Raymond B. Fosdick,

"Chairman Committee on Training Camp Activities,

"War Department, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Fosdick:

"I am enclosing herewith a copy of the letter sent out by the Grand Lodge of New York in an effort to meet the situation raised by the decision of the War Department in connection with the activities of non-military organizations in cantonment camps, etc. It occurred to me that perhaps you would be interested to know what New York state sought to do and what we believe we accomplished. We regretted exceedingly that one Jurisdiction seemingly did not at first see the situation as we did. I am referring to Georgia.

"Sincerely,

"Townsend Scudder."

"Office of the

"GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN THE STATE OF
NEW YORK

"Thomas Penney, Grand Master

"Buffalo, N. Y.

"October 29, 1917.

"Dear Brother Grand Master:

"The fundamental duty of the craft of Masons is loyalty to the government of the United States. Coöperation with, support of, obedience to the government must and will mark the fraternity's efforts to do its bit in the war. Its purpose being to support and to uphold those in authority, and having no quarrel with any governmental agency nor with any organization equally zealous to serve, the craft will countenance no controversy nor permit itself to be drawn into one.

"The present is not a time for criticism. Because danger lurks in ill-advised action having for purpose the broadening of the government's rules with reference to fraternal societies' activities in military establishments, it seems wise that every precaution be taken to prevent what might place

the Craft in a false light and blight its hope to be constructively helpful to the men with the colors, to the people, and to the government.

"Since the scope of Masonic service has not been defined, an informal meeting of the representatives of our several Jurisdictions, or of as many of them as can conveniently be brought together, seems timely, to the end that Masonic service in this war crisis, vital to our beloved country, may be discussed and, if possible, recommendations agreed upon having for object the efficient coöperation of all Masons in the United States in the service of government and country.

"With this patriotic object in view, I have pleasure in offering the hospitality of the Grand Lodge of New York to such a gathering, and if the response hereto confirms me in my present view, will gladly designate a time and place. The wisdom of refraining from action or declaration until the scope of the fraternity's service can be determined, lest its position be prejudiced, needs no comment.

"With assurances of profound esteem, and hoping for an expression of your views at no distant date, I am,

"Fraternally yours,

"Thomas Penney,

"Grand Master.

"By the Grand Master,

"Robert Judson Kenworthy,

"Grand Secretary."

Eight days having elapsed without a reply from Mr. Fosdick to my letter of April 16th, and feeling somewhat nervous at receiving no word, I took advantage of the kind offer of Senator Calder to assist in forwarding the enterprise as far as he could do so, and sent him the following letter:

"April 24, 1918.

"Honorable William M. Calder,

"U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Senator:

"Please drop in at the first opportunity and see Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick and prod him a little on our matter. I do not want to be importunate, but on the other hand it is quite important that we get our necessary papers, etc.

"Faithfully yours,

"Townsend Scudder.

"I have sent Mr. Fosdick all the data he requested. Sorry to trouble you. T. S."

The day after the foregoing letter to Senator Calder the following two letters were received from Mr. Fosdick, both dated April 23, 1918, one promising the full support of the War Department in the prosecution of our work, and the other expressing appreciation of the loyal support by the fraternity to the government in the situation which it had to face two or three months previously.

By this Mr. Fosdick referred to the situation created by the Secretary of War's permission to a secret, sectarian society, the Knights of Columbus, as a recognized relief organization, to do social service work in camps and cantonments, to the exclusion of the Masonic brotherhood, a non-sectarian, self-financing society, and other similar bodies.

"WAR DEPARTMENT

"Commission on Training Camp Activities,

"Washington, April 23, 1918.

"Honorable Townsend Scudder,

"Supreme Court, State of New York,

"Mineola, N. Y.

"My dear Judge Scudder:

"I have your interesting letter of April 16th, outlining the work which the New York Masons desire to undertake in Europe in connection with the welfare of our troops. I am gratified to know that your commission is sailing soon, and I can promise you the full support of the War Department in the prosecution of your work.

"Please let me know if at any time I can be of any assistance.

Cordially yours,

"Raymond B. Fosdick,

"Chairman."

"WAR DEPARTMENT

"Commission on Training Camp Activities

"Washington, April 23, 1918.

"Honorable Townsend Scudder,

"Supreme Court, State of New York,

"Mineola, N. Y.

"My dear Judge Scudder:

"Thank you for your letter of April 19th enclosing a copy of the communication sent out by the Grand Lodge of New York in connection with the situation which we had to face two or three months ago. I did not realize what loyal support your organization gave us at that time, and I am con-

fidant that it was responsible in no small degree for the harmonious relations finally established.

"With warm personal regards,

"Cordially yours,

"Raymond B. Fosdick,

"Chairman."

Because of the receipt of the foregoing letters of April 23d, there was sent to Senator Calder the following letter, dated April 25, 1918, and a telegram dated May 2, 1918, from Senator Calder was received in reply:

"April 25, 1918.

"Honorable William M. Calder,

"U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Calder:

"I have received word from Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick, chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, stating 'I can promise you the full support of the War Department in the prosecution of your work.'

"The next point is how we should proceed in connection with passports, and what credentials we ought to have from Fosdick's Committee, or the Secretary of War, so that when we apply for our passports the evidence that we are entitled to them or that our work has received this endorsement may be at hand. Can you make this inquiry and let me know?

Faithfully,

"Townsend Scudder."

"WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

"Received at 313 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

"St Washington DC 1156 A M May 2 1918

"The Hon. Townsend Scudder

"Supreme Court Chambers Bklyn NY

"Mr Fosdick advises you address him at once concerning Masonic plans for work abroad he will be glad to expedite passports and any other business that your commission has in mind

"Wm M Calder

132PM"

About the time of the receipt of the telegram of May 2d from Senator Calder there reached me the following letter from Mr. Fosdick, dated April 30, 1918:

**"WAR DEPARTMENT
"Commission on Training Camp Activities
"Washington, April 30, 1918.**

**"Honorable Townsend Scudder,
"Supreme Court of the State of New York,
"Mineola, N. Y.**

"My dear Judge Scudder:

"Confidentially, I am sailing for France next week, to look up the whole matter of recreation for the troops both in France and England. Is there anything that we ought to say to each other before I go? When does your Mission start, and are there any further plans that have been developed? Cordially yours,

"Raymond B. Fosdick, Chairman."

On May 2, 1918, Mr. Fosdick's communication of April 30th was answered by the following letter:

**"SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
"Mineola, N. Y., May 2, 1918.**

**"Hon. Raymond B. Fosdick,
"Chairman Commission on Training Camp Activities,
"Washington, D. C.**

"Dear Mr. Fosdick:

"Thank you very much for yours of April the 30th. I should like to see you before you sail. Do you expect to spend any days in New York? The Grand Lodge of Masons meets on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week, May 7th, 8th and 9th, and on the evening of the 9th there is to be a Conference of the Grand Masters of the several states of the Union, which will be held in New York. At this Conference Masonic work along the lines which we have discussed will be taken up.

"I do not think that we will be able to sail before June, and I have been wondering whether in order to secure the necessary passports, etc., I did not require some certificate from your department in a general way approving our plan, as a supplement perhaps to the letter I received from you perhaps a week ago.

"My home is 112 Willow Street, Brooklyn; telephone Main 4872, and I will be there every evening. I mention this so perhaps you could find time to communicate with me so that I could call upon you. I hope so.

"Sincerely,

"Townsend Scudder."

Word was received on April 30th or May 1st from Mr. Fosdick by a long distance telephone that he was to be in New York and could be reached at the Hotel Prince George or at the Rockefeller Foundation in the Borough of Manhattan.

Being myself unable to meet Mr. Fosdick at the time set by him, because I was presiding at a term of the Supreme Court at that time, and because Mr. Fosdick could not meet me in the evening, I requested Bro. William C. Prime, a member of the Masonic Overseas Mission, to meet Mr. Fosdick in my stead, and ascertain from him what information, in addition to that already given him "concerning our Masonic plans for work abroad," he had in mind, and which called forth the telegram of May 2d from Senator Calder. I also sought information as to the form of the Masonic Mission's credentials, and the necessary steps to be taken to secure from the State Department the proper passports.

Bro. Prime was received by Mr. Fosdick at the Rockefeller Foundation, and the salient points of the ensuing conference were transmitted to me by Bro. Prime by the following letter, dated May 3, 1918:

"R. E. & A. J. PRIME

"25 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.

and 2 Rector Street, New York City

"Yonkers, N. Y., May 3, 1918.

"Hon. Townsend Scudder,

"Glen Head, N. Y.

"Dear Judge:

"As you requested on Wednesday, I immediately got hold of Mr. Fosdick on the telephone at Washington, and found he was coming to New York on Thursday night, to be here this morning, and he made an appointment with me at the Rockefeller Foundation, 61 Broadway, where I have just seen him, and gone over fully with him the business of paving the way for the departure of the Mission.

"He told me that he had done everything that he thought he could do, excepting that he would immediately write and send to Mr. McBride, his assistant, a letter to the State Department, which you could pick up in Washington, and which he thought would forestall any difficulties, and ensure the issue of passports. I gave him the personnel of the Mission, of which he made a note, and told him somewhat of our plan.

"He showed a lively interest in what I said, and discussed with me at some length the subject of rents in Paris and elsewhere; said that he would be in Paris early in May, would see Carter, make general inquiry regarding rents and conditions, and write you fully from Paris. He said that he expected his trip would be very brief, and he might get back before we left, but would write in any case, giving you full information as far as he could obtain it.

"He is to be at the Prince George tonight, and I think will sail tomorrow or next day. I told him that I would write you immediately the result of our interview, and that it might be that you would endeavor to get in touch with him later, and before he sailed.

"Very truly yours,

"W. C. Prime."

COÖPERATION OF THE Y. M. C. A. SOUGHT

Upon receipt of the letter of Mr. Fosdick, dated April 23d, promising us "the full support of the War Department in the prosecution of our work" overseas, we sought an interview with the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association to secure from them, if possible, their coöperation in our undertaking in Europe at least to the extent of giving us the advantage of the facilities of travel enjoyed by them through the courtesy of the French authorities to enable us more quickly and with the least delay to pass from one leavearea to another in organizing and prosecuting our work. We felt the more justified in seeking this coöperation because of the fact that Freemasons had contributed to the Y. M. C. A. large sums of money to assist the work of the latter.

Through the kind offices of R. W. Jacob C. Klinck an interview was had on April 26, 1918, between Mr. C. V. Hibbard, Associate General Secretary of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A., and a Masonic committee composed of Brothers Townsend Scudder, Rev. Dr. Charles C. Albertson, Rev. Dr. Clarence A. Barbour, and Rev. Dr. S. Parkes Cadman, at which the plan and scope of our projected overseas work were laid before Mr. Hibbard and fully explained and discussed, and we told

him we were seeking the coöperation of the Y. M. C. A., particularly in the matter of travel in Europe, as heretofore set forth. Mr. Hibbard first inquired if we had government consent, to which we replied in the affirmative, and he was promised a copy of my letter of April 16, 1918, addressed to Raymond B. Fosdick and a copy of Mr. Fosdick's reply thereto, dated April 23d. These were subsequently duly sent to Mr. Hibbard.

Mr. Hibbard stated to our committee that he was not in a position to promise us the coöperation we sought, but saw no reason why it should not be accorded us if we brought ourselves under the rules governing the Y. M. C. A. in its relations with the Allied governments. He went on to say that our proposal for coöperation would have to be submitted to Dr. John R. Mott, General Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., who was abroad, whose return he suggested we await. As time was a vital element, we suggested that our proposal be cabled to Dr. Mott. To this he assented, saying he would send the cable upon receipt from us of the facts in writing. Pursuant to this understanding the following letter, dated April 27, 1918, with the enclosures therein mentioned, was sent to Mr. Hibbard, the expense of cabling being duly paid by us:

"April 27, 1918.

"C. V. Hibbard, Esq.,
 "Overseas Dept., Y. M. C. A.,
 "347 Madison Avenue, New York.

"Dear Mr. Hibbard:

"I am enclosing herewith a copy of my letter to Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick, chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities of the War Department, and a copy of his reply thereto under date of April the 23rd. My letter to Mr. Fosdick was a resumé of the conversation which I had with him in Washington when I first presented the hopes of the Masonic fraternity in connection with war relief service overseas. For your convenience and use, if it meets with your approval, I am sending a synopsis of our plan to be cabled to Europe agreeably to the suggestion of yesterday. I am also enclosing the pledge exacted of the young men in the service, sons of Masons, who join the fraternity in anticipation of their overseas service.

"Faithfully yours, Townsend Scudder.

"112 Willow Street,
 "Brooklyn, N. Y.

"Permit me to thank you for your very courteous reception and for your generous donation of time. T. S."

The following is a copy of the proposed cable to Dr. Mott enclosed in the foregoing letter of April 27th:

**IN THE MATTER OF MASONIC OVERSEAS WAR
RELIEF WORK**

The Masonic fraternity purposes maintaining in cities in France and Great Britain, and in Italy when time is ripe, to which American soldiers go when on leave or recuperating, quarters in the nature of clubs, open to all men in the service, but where Masons in the service will be hosts, may receive and entertain their friends, reciprocating courtesies received, and where they will find American literature, amusement and useful information. The object is to cheer the men and direct into proper channels their natural longing for amusement and diversion.

In Switzerland it is intended to establish an agency to reach and ameliorate the condition of Masons, prisoners in Germany.

The War Department has approved this work. The Masonic committee going to Europe to organize it feel that the facility of movement enjoyed by the Y. M. C. A., if extended to their committee, will facilitate its work. To this extent they ask the privilege of working under the Y. M. C. A. Can this privilege be accorded them?

Subsequently to the sending of the cablegram, numerous interviews with officials of the Y. M. C. A. were had, and considerable correspondence exchanged, culminating in the following letter:

**"THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF YOUNG
MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS**

"347 Madison Avenue, New York City

"September 24, 1918.

"Judge Townsend Scudder,

"Glen Head, Long Island, N. Y.

"My dear Judge Scudder:

"I wish to acknowledge your letter setting forth the desires of the Masonic fraternity to share in those helpful ministries to the soldiers overseas with which the Y. M. C. A. has been identified, and intimating that, while you may be moving along independent lines, there will be abundant opportunities for coöperation, and indeed coördination, between the efforts of the Masonic fraternity and the Y. M. C. A. Pending the presentation of your proposals

formally to the Committee on Overseas Activities, I have consulted with Dr. Mott and his associate, Mr. Brockman, and we are altogether certain that your suggestions will find a hearty response in formal action when the committee meets.

"As you know, and as is quite natural, we have in the secretarial staff overseas a considerable number who belong to the Masonic membership in the United States. It would be perfectly possible, therefore, for us either to assign or release some of these to specific tasks where you might desire coöperation. There are individual types of work which we are carrying on or special areas within which we operate which might likewise be designated as the sphere of your special interests. I understand, however, that there is possibility of your being given by the military some special assignment of work. While it is natural that such work as you undertake will have a peculiar interest to members of the Masonic fraternity, who are in the army, your plan as indicated in your letter is in perfect alignment with our own policy, namely, to minister freely to the needs of all. In every way, therefore, it seems to me that we shall be able to coöperate heartily, and you may count upon our organization and our personnel to assist you in every way that is within our power. Perhaps I ought to call attention, however, to our own limitations which may appear when we come to discuss definite plans, namely, that we will have to be subject to existing military regulations, and likewise to the necessities of practical administration of our work calling for a certain degree of freedom and elasticity in all special designations and a certain mobility of our personnel as to their movements under war conditions.

"We shall then await with interest some future word from you as to the special service that you feel we might render, and the practical coöperation that we can extend and this will appear more clearly as you discover the lines along which your activities overseas will move.

"Very cordially yours,

"C. R. Watson."

The further negotiations of the Masonic Mission with the Y. M. C. A. after the government, notwithstanding its former and early approval and promises, had finally refused us permission for independent service abroad, will be set forth later in this report.

CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS IN
NEW YORK, MAY 9, 1918

Negotiations with the government had now progressed so far that it was feasible to call the proposed Conference of Grand Masters and lay before them a definite plan for overseas service by the fraternity. The call for this Conference was issued by M. W. Thomas Penney, Grand Master of New York, on April 17, 1918.

It will be noted that this call was issued after the first interview with Mr. Fosdick in Washington, in which he had given his oral approval of our overseas project, but prior to the receipt of his written approval. This was because of the implicit confidence reposed in Mr. Fosdick's word, and because also of insistent demands from the many thousands of Masons in service in Europe for action abroad by the Masonic fraternity at the earliest possible moment.

Recalling the requirement by the government that all Masons participating in this projected overseas service be united so that one permission could be granted to them collectively, and because it was desirable that this work be performed by as many Masonic bodies as possible, and not by the Masons of New York only, such a conference of Grand Masters became at this point in the progress of our enterprise imperative. The following is the letter of April 17, 1918, calling such conference, and the printed outline of subjects for discussion thereat enclosed in such letter of call:

"Office of the
"GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN THE STATE OF
NEW YORK

"866 Ellicott Square, Buffalo

"Thomas Penney, April 17, 1918.

"Grand Master.

"Dear Brother Grand Master:

"In November last I addressed the Grand Masters of the several Masonic Jurisdictions in the United States, touching upon the war conditions and the opportunities and responsibilities resting upon Free Masonry in that connection, with particular reference to the desirability of a conference of Grand Masters for consideration of war problems and concerted constructive action in that regard.

"The letter was issued to all of our Sister Jurisdictions, and responses were received from more than a majority, so patriotically spontaneous that I felt impelled to follow up my suggestion by calling a conference. Owing, however, to the suggestions from a number, of pending sessions of their respective Grand Lodges, to which they desired the subject referred, or of early termination of their term of office, and therefore authority, and desire that the matter be taken in hand by their successors, I have withheld action until now it seems appropriate that the call should issue.

"I therefore suggest that a conference of the representatives of the several Grand Jurisdictions be held at the Masonic Hall, New York City, on the evening of Thursday, May 9, 1918, at 8:00 o'clock, to continue from day to day until the necessary business of such conference can properly be canvassed and transacted, and its purposes at least put in the way of accomplishment.

"Merely as a suggestion, and in order that you may have an opportunity of considering before we get together the scope of such a session, I have thought it well to outline somewhat the subjects for discussion, and accompanying this letter you will see printed the agenda, so far as it can now be formulated. It will be helpful if you will give this outline your careful consideration as promptly as convenient, and advise me in ample time of any additional suggestions that you have to make for business, or subjects to be considered.

"May I hope for a prompt response, assuring your co-operation and representation?

"Sincerely and fraternally,

"Thomas Penney,

"Grand Master."

**OUTLINE OF SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AND
CONSIDERATION AT CONFERENCE OF
GRAND MASTERS TO BE HELD AT
NEW YORK CITY, MAY 9, 1918**

1. It is ascertained that in the near future the government will bring home those men who have been so severely injured as to be incapable of useful service abroad. They will be blind, crippled, deaf, demented. Extensive hospitals on the seaboard and elsewhere are in process of establishment for their reception, classification and separation according to their needs, and other hospitals are also in process of establishment for the special treatment of other particular ills.

It is planned to establish instrumentalities for reconstruction and reëducation of derelicts.

This important business is already undertaken and carried on both in France and in England. It will naturally be largely, if not wholly, under government control and maintenance.

Query: What can Free Masonry do for its own and others and what should it do, and how, in connection with this important business?

2. Various stations will be established throughout the country for the reception and treatment of convalescents. In this work women can be of inestimable service, and the opportunity both for men and women to minister to our wounded, to entertain and occupy their minds, will be enormous.

Query: What can Free Masonry do and how, in this important business?

3. The Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., Y. M. H. A., and K. of C. are performing valiant service at camps and at the front in connection with the welfare of the men, moral and otherwise.

Query: Are these instrumentalities sufficient or all that can usefully be employed for the moral stabilizing of the men at the front or in camps, particularly the men engaged in the service?

4. The employment by Free Masonry of chaplains or other agencies at home and abroad, in camps and elsewhere in connection with the maintenance of moral standards and close touch between the men in the service and their friends at home.

5. The Grand Lodge of New York is about to despatch R. W. Erastus C. Knight, who will be joined later by M. W. Townsend Scudder, as its representatives to France. They are commissioned to organize such agency or agencies as the circumstances require to minister to Free Masons in the service generally, save as respects supplying them with funds. Their instructions cover duties which will demand constant touch with members of the Craft, and keeping them in touch with friends and relatives at home.

Query: Will other Jurisdictions participate in this service, either in respect of independent agencies or coöperation in the expense of one representative or set of representatives?

6. Certain camps, such as Camp Merritt at Tenafly, N. J., are being employed for concentration and embarkation of soldiers. Men frequently are despatched thither for

immediate transportation abroad, who have not been home or in touch with friends or kin for considerable periods. They are disheartened, home-sick, low-spirited.

Query: Should Masonic agents, working independently or under the wing of the Y. M. C. A. or Red Cross, be employed at such camps to cheer, assist, and otherwise minister to Free Masons who may be thus situated, and if so, with what scope of authority as to funds, and how maintained?

7. An inevitable consequence of the war will be the human wrecks or partial wrecks of middle age, or less than middle age, most of them comparative youths. Also men physically fit, but requiring aid and employment.

They will require assistance to maintain themselves, and their dependents also will require assistance financially and otherwise.

Query: Ways and means to cope with this problem. Should it be nation-wide, coöperative, strong Jurisdictions assisting weak, or should each Jurisdiction arrange to take care of its own?

If the former, should a general Masonic fund be accumulated? If so, how and how administered?

8. What are the several Grand Jurisdictions in the United States now doing?

This Conference met on May 9, 1918, and continued its sittings over May 10th, and was actually attended by twelve Grand Jurisdictions. In addition, letters approving the purpose of the Conference and promising support and coöperation were received from many others, making a participation, in person or by letter, by 37 Masonic Jurisdictions in the United States.

The following resolution was adopted by the conference:

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT A CONFERENCE OF
GRAND MASTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF
GRAND JURISDICTIONS OF FREE AND AC-
CEPTED MASONS IN THE UNITED STATES,
HELD ON MAY 10, 1918.**

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Brethren here assembled, hailing from the following Grand Jurisdictions—Massachusetts, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Oklahoma, Ohio, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Oregon, New Hampshire and New York—that there is present need for Masonic service overseas to minister to Masons with the colors in the forces of the United States; that some service lies in the cities, the recreation centers to which the boys

go in large numbers while on leave, in work that may be approved by the War Department; that in such cities, seemingly, there should be established general Masonic headquarters where Masons may receive Masonic welcome, comfort and encouragement, and where our boys may be hosts at home; that the duplication of such headquarters in one and the same town would be a waste of energy and funds; that such headquarters be manned from time to time by workers from any or all of our Jurisdictions as circumstances permit; that the expense thereof be paid so far as possible out of a general fund; that the fund be dedicated to Masonic Fraternal Service Overseas; that the several Masonic Jurisdictions be invited to contribute to this fund on an annual basis for each member; that the management of the fund be entrusted to a committee composed of representatives of the several contributing Jurisdictions selected as each Jurisdiction sees fit; that each such Jurisdiction cast one vote; that this service be in no wise exclusive, but rather a tribute to and token of Masonic brotherhood without regard to territorial divisions; that we recommend that the several Grand Lodges in the United States create War Boards ready to engage in this work as demand may appear, and we also recommend the presentation of this plan to our several Jurisdictions.

The minutes of the proceedings of the Conference of Grand Masters of May 9th were duly printed, and a copy thereof, including said resolution, in book form, sent to every Sister Jurisdiction in the United States.

Publicity of the projected plan of Masonic Service abroad, as approved by the government, was given through the medium of the Associated Press, and this news was enthusiastically received by the Masonic fraternity, which promptly commenced raising among its members the funds to meet the expenses of the enterprise. Many members of the fraternity now volunteered their services. Our plan having thus received governmental approval and endorsement, and the Masons standing ready to meet the other requirements of the Department, willing to give their personal services, and able of themselves to meet all financial demands, nothing seemed now necessary save the issuance of formal passports by the State Department.

EFFORTS TO SECURE PASSPORTS

Mr. Fosdick had notified us that, to expedite the securing of our passports, he had written a letter, addressed to the Secretary of State, which we could procure by calling at the office of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, in the War Department, Washington. It will be recalled that this is the Commission of which Mr. Fosdick is chairman.

Mr. Fosdick had previously advised us that it would be necessary for us to present to the Secretary of State, in addition to his above-mentioned letter, a certificate from the Grand Master of Masons in New York of the appointment of the personnel of the Masonic Overseas Mission.

A few days were allowed to elapse after the adjournment of the New York Conference above described to enable those attending, after their return home, to communicate the names of any whom they might wish to have included in the personnel of the mission, it being understood that if none were so designated, the mission as then constituted was to proceed.

On May 19th, no such designations having been received, your chairman and Bro. Erastus C. Knight went to Washington and duly called at the office of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, where we were received by Mr. Malcolm L. McBride, acting chairman in the absence of Mr. Fosdick, who delivered to us the letter signed by Mr. Fosdick, and addressed to the Secretary of State. The following is a copy of this letter:

"WAR DEPARTMENT

"Commission on Training Camp Activities

"Washington, May 6, 1918.

"The Honorable the Secretary of State,

"Washington.

"Sir:

"Mr. Justice Scudder, of the Supreme Court of New York, is the chairman of a commission of five men representing the Masons of New York who are applying for passports to study the situation overseas as far as the leisure time activities of our troops is concerned, with the idea of providing whatever may be necessary both for their own constituent membership and others in the army who may need their services. We have already approved the issuance of passports to two other fraternal organizations, and I am

sincerely hopeful that no objection will be interposed in the case of Judge Scudder's commission.

"Respectfully yours,

"Raymond B. Fosdick,
"Chairman."

We had with us our letter of credentials signed by Grand Master William S. Farmer, dated May 6, 1918, addressed to Hon. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, a copy of which follows:

"Office of the
"GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN THE STATE OF
NEW YORK

"Masonic Temple,
"Syracuse, May 6, 1918.

"Hon. Robert Lansing,
"Secretary of State,
"Washington, D. C.

"My dear Sir:

"I beg to inform you that I have appointed Hon. Townsend Scudder, Justice of the Supreme Court of the state of New York, Hon. Erastus C. Knight, one-time Mayor of the city of Buffalo and one-time Comptroller of the state of New York; Rev. Oscar F. R. Treder, Dean of Garden City Cathedral, Garden City, L. I.; Mr. Rougier Thorne, of Glen Cove, L. I., and Mr. William C. Prime, of Yonkers, N. Y., to constitute a mission to Freemasons in the United States forces overseas, whose particular duties are to visit France, Italy, Switzerland and Great Britain, and to establish and maintain such agencies for the comfort and cheer of Freemasons in particular in the military and naval service of the United States in the present war, as seem possible and practicable.

"To the end that they may have free and safe conduct, as far as is possible in the circumstances, I beg to request that their journey be facilitated by all means in your power, and that passports and other necessary credentials in the name of the United States government be issued to them with all convenient speed.

"The duration of their stay is uncertain, but it is likely that Mr. Knight will remain abroad longer than the others.

"Respectfully yours,

"William S. Farmer,
"Grand Master."

Upon receiving from the acting chairman, Mr. McBride, Mr. Fosdick's letter to Secretary of State, we inquired where it

should be presented, and if an appointment for that purpose was necessary. He replied that, while we might, as a matter of courtesy, take our letters to the office of the Secretary of State, we would doubtless be referred directly to the passport bureau, where the letters would be received and filed. He further invited us, should we there encounter any delays, to communicate with him, when he would take care of the matter.

With a feeling of confidence we left Mr. McBride and carried our letters to the office of the Secretary of State, and presented ourselves at the office of Mr. Polk, counsellor to the Secretary. Mr. Polk was absent, ill, and the person in charge of his office directed us to take our letters to the passport bureau, saying: "I will call them up and tell them you are coming so as to obviate any delay, and the matter will be given immediate attention." We stood there while the passport bureau was called up. I heard the conversation, and could supply the rest. It seems the head of the bureau was not in, and would not be in, but his deputy was, a gentleman by the name of Walsh or Welch. He was told that we were coming to take up the passports, and to facilitate in every way that he could.

We went over to the passport bureau, which we found filled with people. I sent in my card; a man came out, asked who we were. I told him that we were the men about whom the Secretary of State's office had spoken to him a few moments before over the telephone. He said, "What can I do to serve you?" I said, "It will probably take a few moments. Shall we sit down? I see you have some people in your private office, and we will gladly await our turn." He said, "That is very kind of you, and I will get rid of them as soon as I can."

I did not care to announce our business out in the main ante-room, thus crowded with people. In a few moments we were shown into his office. "Now," he said, "what is it you wish?" I said, "We are here to obtain passports for the Masonic Mission going overseas to engage in war relief work in the recreation centers of our soldiers." "I am opposed to it," were the laconic words which greeted us. Of course, he was but a clerk in an office, seemingly vested with no great discretion. I said to him, "But the War Department has passed upon this. Are you

conscious of that fact?" "Oh," he said, "the War Department does not finally decide these things." I said, "Who does?" He said, "We do." I said, "Who are 'we'?" "Why," he said, "it is decided here in the first instance." I said, "Where is it decided in the last instance?" "Well," he said, "of course, ultimately it may get to the Secretary of State if appeal is taken to him." I said, "Then you are the tribunal to whom this matter must *now* be presented?" "Yes," he replied. I said, "Very well, then. We will sit down and I will go over it gladly with you." He said, "It is quite unnecessary." "But," said I, "my dear sir, you certainly want to have the facts, do you not?" He answered, "You told them to me and I understand it all. You are a Masonic Mission seeking to go overseas to engage in war relief work. We do not approve of such activities by secret societies. If you are permitted to have your passports to engage in this work, then we have got to permit every other secret society to engage in the same work, which would include every Greek letter society. We will not permit it. We cannot do it." I told him that our work overseas was in no way identified with our usual activities as a secret society, that our service was to be of the same general nature as that of the Y. M. C. A. and the Knights of Columbus, and that a ruling which would be applicable to college secret societies could not hold good with us. To which he replied that "The principle is the same." I said, "I hardly anticipated this situation. I could not myself render judgment upon a matter coming before me on as little evidence as you have here, and I really feel it should be more deliberately presented and considered." He said, "That is quite unnecessary, quite unnecessary. If you want to file your papers here, you can, of course." I said, "We have our papers and were told to file them here, so I will file them, but do not act upon them. I will take the matter up in other quarters, for I think there must be some misunderstanding." He said, "We won't act upon them until we hear from higher up," or something of that kind, and we parted.

We immediately returned to the office of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, and related to Mr. McBride our experience at the passport bureau. He showed considerable as-

tonishment and annoyance over our treatment, and said that he would at once place himself in communication with the Secretary of War and arrange for a meeting between us. After some telephoning by Mr. McBride, he told us that he could not arrange for an interview with Secretary Baker, but had instructions to take us to Mr. Keppel, the Third Assistant Secretary of War, under whose jurisdiction our matter came.

Accompanied by Mr. McBride, we then repaired to the office of the Third Assistant Secretary of War, Mr. F. P. Keppel, by whom we were most courteously received. The object of our call having been briefly stated by Mr. McBride, Mr. Keppel asked me to tell him in detail everything which had transpired in the passport bureau, which I did. He listened with great attention, occasionally asking questions, inquiring specifically for the name of the man with whom we had had the conversation. When I had finished Mr. Keppel said, in substance, "This is very extraordinary, and I do not understand it at all. Conditions are changing from day to day, and it may be that the State Department has instructions regarding passports not communicated to the War Department. I will take up the matter with Secretary Baker and the Secretary of State, and advise you what to do."

I drew attention to the fact that, before going to the passport bureau, we had called at the office of Mr. Polk, counsellor to the Secretary of State, where we had been instructed how to proceed and what to do with our letters, and this office made the appointment for us with the passport bureau, a proceeding not necessary had the bureau instructions not to issue passports in a case such as ours, approved by the War Department. Upon his saying, "The matter will be fully looked into," we took our leave.

Bro. Knight and I at once returned to Mr. Polk's office, where we saw his secretary, a gentleman by the name of, I think, Howell, to whom I related all the steps taken by us in our enterprise from the time we made known to Mr. Fosdick our ambitions to the conversation with Mr. Keppel, just concluded. We asked him to call the matter to the attention of Mr. Polk as soon as he saw him, saying we would like to see Mr. Polk personally. I then and there, also, for the first time voiced my suspicion that

there might be at work influences hostile to the Masonic fraternity in its endeavor to serve the soldiers overseas. Feeling that the utmost plain speaking was now needed to avoid a superficial consideration and hasty decision in this passport matter, and that, if our matter *were* taken up in earnest with the State Department, it would come before Mr. Polk, I addressed Mr. Howell in substance as follows:

That our fraternity had an active membership of nearly 2,000,000, that it had been identified with every great work of service in the history of our country, that it had been wounded by its exclusion from participation in war relief work in camps and cantonments in the United States, that announcement of the consent of the War Department had been received by the fraternity with enthusiasm, that all over our country Masons were making financial arrangements to meet the expense of the overseas work, to engage in which permission had been received from the government, and that, if at this stage of our progress, we should find ourselves confronted by an insuperable obstacle to carrying out our projected service work, great and widespread resentment might well be aroused. For these reasons I urged that these facts be laid before Mr. Polk to the end that, when the matter came before him he might be fully apprised of its importance and give it his personal consideration.

In all these conversations and efforts to achieve our aims it was also my firm endeavor not to embarrass the government in the war crisis in which our country then found itself, knowing that such a course was the only one to meet with the fraternity's approval, while, at the same time, leaving no stone unturned to reach the goal of our ambitions.

We now returned to New York to await the promised advices from the Third Assistant Secretary of War.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH WAR DEPARTMENT DURING MR. FOSDICK'S ABSENCE

Shortly after our return from Washington, a letter dated May 23, 1918, was received from Mr. F. P. Keppel, Third Assistant Secretary of War, of which the following is a copy:

“WAR DEPARTMENT

“Office of the

“Third Assistant Secretary.

“Washington, May 23, 1918.

“Honorable Townsend Scudder,

“112 Willow Street,

“Brooklyn, N. Y.

“Dear Judge Scudder:

“I took up with the Secretary of War the proposed trip of yourself and your associates to France, and Mr. Baker feels with regard to this suggestion, and that of several others now before him, that, as Mr. Fosdick is now in France himself, it would be better for all such proposals to await his return before a definite decision is made.

“I am asking Mr. McBride to bring the case of the proposed visits of the representatives of the Masons to Mr. Fosdick's attention by cable, so that he will be prepared to give a prompt reply upon his return.

“Yours very truly, F. P. Keppel,

“Third Assistant Secretary.”

The foregoing letter of May 23rd was followed by another letter from Mr. Keppel, dated June 1, 1918, of which the following is a copy:

“WAR DEPARTMENT

“Office of the

“Third Assistant Secretary.

“Washington, June 1, 1918.

“Dear Judge Scudder:

“Pursuant to the understanding reached at our talk a few days ago, I took up with Mr. Fosdick by cable the question of your plans for a trip to Europe. I have just received from him, through the courtesy of General Pershing, a cable recommending that the matter of your visit be held up until Mr. Fosdick's return, in view of his doubt that there is adequate opportunity for you to accomplish independently in France what you have in mind.

“Yours very truly, F. P. Keppel,

“Hon Townsend Scudder, Third Assistant Secretary.

“10 Wall Street,

“New York City, N. Y.”

In view of Mr. Fosdick's doubt that there was adequate opportunity for us to accomplish *independently* in France what we had in mind, as stated in Mr. Keppel's letter of June 1st, we began to press the officers of the Y. M. C. A. for an early decision on our suggestion of coöperation between them and the Masonic fraternity, as hereinbefore set forth.

Attention is here called to the fact that in this letter of June 1st the word "independently" for the first time is emphasized in the correspondence with Washington.

Not hearing anything further from Mr. Keppel up to June 17th, I on that date addressed to him the following letter:

"June 17, 1918.

"Honorable F. P. Keppel,

"Third Assistant Secretary, War Department,

"Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Keppel:

"Replying to your favors of May 23rd and of June 1st, I beg to say that in harmony with your suggestion the Masonic fraternity cheerfully will await Mr. Fosdick's return from Europe to learn from him how it can serve overseas most efficiently.

"The determination by the Department of the scope of Masonic service overseas, of course, will take into account the effect its decision will have upon the two million active Free Masons in the United States.

"The loyalty of the oldest, richest and numerically the strongest brotherhood is unequivocal. Masonry has no quarrel with any organization zealous to serve cause and country, but it did not understand its own exclusion from such service.

"Its enthusiasm was spontaneous when news spread over the United States of the War Department's Commission on Training Camp Activities' approval of Masons as such, in the recreation centers overseas, contributing to the cheer and comfort of the men with the colors, to whose numbers the Masonic fraternity already is contributing fully one hundred thousand of its members.

"On the strength of this approval, New York called a conference of Grand Masters of the United States, to invite their coöperation in this service; the Conference was held, and already much money has been and is to be raised within the order to further the approved service.

"These facts are mentioned because their consideration seems indispensable to a comprehensive satisfying decision,

and because, if overlooked, the enthusiasm of a very large and zealous group of citizens might suffer a chill, surely an undesirable thing in these critical times. While picked men, Masons are only human.

"I enclose a copy of Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick's letter of April 23, 1918, upon which the Masonic fraternity relied when it acted as outlined above, and also a copy of a letter sent by the Grand Master of Masons in New York to the Grand Master of each state in the Union, in the hope of dissipating the disheartening suspicion then entertained that Freemasonry had been discriminated against unjustly by the government's exclusion of Free Masons from engaging in welfare work within military camps, and the according of that privilege exclusively to the Young Men's Christian Association and the Knights of Columbus.

"The situation confronting us is calculated to be exceedingly disturbing if it is not wisely handled. Its great importance is my excuse for writing at length.

"Very sincerely yours,

"Townsend Scudder."

In response, I received the following:

"WAR DEPARTMENT

"Washington, June 26, 1918.

"Dear Justice Scudder:

"Mr. McBride and I have been going over together the points contained in your letter of the 17th, and have come to the conclusion that the best thing for us to do is to await Mr. Fosdick's return, which if all goes well will be within ten days or a fortnight. We will then bring your letter promptly to his attention and will let you know the result in the light of his fresh views on the foreign situation.

"Yours very truly,

"F. P. Keppel,

"Third Assistant Secretary of War.

"Hon. Townsend Scudder,

"Supreme Court of the State of New York,

"Brooklyn, N. Y."

I therefore replied, under date of June 28th, as follows:

"June 28, 1918.

"Honorable F. P. Keppel,

"Third Assistant Secretary of War,

"War Department, Washington, D. C.

"My dear Mr. Keppel:

"Permit me to thank you for your favor of June the 26th. May I suggest that I have the opportunity of meeting you,

Mr. Fosdick, and Mr. McBride. I lean to the belief that such a meeting will be helpful, and I will be glad to come to Washington on very short notice.

"Thanking you for your courtesy, and with kindest regards, believe me,

"Sincerely, Townsend Scudder.

"Present address,

"Glen Head, Long Island, N. Y."

Mr. Keppel replied as follows:

"WAR DEPARTMENT

"Washington, June 29, 1918.

"Dear Mr. Justice Scudder:

"I have your letter of the 28th, but cannot say when such a meeting as you suggest will be possible, as it is not known when Mr. Fosdick, who has been overseas for the past two months, will return. In the meantime I have taken the liberty of referring your letter to Mr. McBride, acting chairman in the absence of Mr. Fosdick.

"With best wishes,

"Yours very sincerely, F. P. Keppel,

"Third Assistant Secretary of War.

"Justice Townsend Scudder,

"Glen Head, Long Island, N. Y."

I received from Mr. McBride, under date of July 2nd, an acknowledgment as follows:

"WAR DEPARTMENT

"Commission on Training Camp Activities

"Washington

"Honorable Townsend Scudder,

July 2, 1918.

"Glen Head, Long Island, N. Y.

"Dear Mr. Justice Scudder:

"Secretary Keppel has referred to me your letter of June 28th, and inasmuch as Mr. Fosdick will probably be back in the course of a week or ten days, may I suggest that you defer your meeting until his return, as I am sure he will be able to add fresh light on the situation abroad, in which you are so much interested.

"Very sincerely yours,

"Malcolm L. McBride,

"Acting Chairman."

Because of growing uneasiness over the passage of time, and because of the approaching return of Mr. Fosdick, I was desirous that our matter should be as thoroughly as possible under-

stood, and its magnitude appreciated, by those before whom I felt it would sooner or later come.

I accordingly, on June 28th, addressed to Mr. Polk the following letter:

"June 28, 1918.

"Honorable Frank Polk,
"Counsellor to the Secretary of State,
"Washington, D. C.

"My dear Mr. Polk:

"I have been named as the head of the Masonic Overseas Mission in connection with war relief work. I am very keen to have a little chat with you and have been expecting to go to Washington July the 8th, to be there several days.

"The purpose of my letter is to inquire whether you expect to be in Washington at that time, and, if you will not, to request that you advise me when you feel that I could see you either in Washington or elsewhere.

"Permit me to offer my sympathy in the bereavement you have sustained, and also to express the hope that your health has improved.

"Very sincerely yours,

"Address, Townsend Scudder.
"Justice Townsend Scudder,
"Glen Head, Long Island, N. Y."

The receipt of the foregoing letter was acknowledged by Mr. Howell, Mr. Polk's secretary, under date of June 29th, apprising me of Mr. Polk's expected return after absence due to illness:

"THE COUNSELOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE
"Washington

"June 29, 1918.

"My dear Mr. Justice:

"As Mr. Polk is away ill, I beg to acknowledge your letter of the twenty-eighth. You say you are coming here July eighth for several days and I think I can safely say that Mr. Polk will be in Washington at that time.

"Yours very truly,

"H. D. Howell, Secretary.

"Justice Townsend Scudder,
"Glen Head, Long Island, N. Y."

With the same object in view I wrote on June 28, 1918, to Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and received from him his reply dated June 29, 1918:

"June 28, 1918.

"Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,

"Navy Department,

"Washington, D. C.

"My dear Mr. Roosevelt:

"I am head of the Masonic Overseas Mission. I am very keen to have a little chat with you in the near future. I can come to Washington almost any time. I have been planning to go to Washington on July the 8th, to be there several days. May I inquire whether you expect to be in Washington at that time, for, if not, I will arrange to come earlier

Very sincerely yours,

"Townsend Scudder."

"NAVY DEPARTMENT

"Assistant Secretary's Office

"Washington

"June 29, 1918.

"My dear Judge Scudder:

"I shall be only too glad to see you if you come to Washington. I have been hoping to have a little talk with you for some time, in regard to New York matters, Masonic and otherwise.

"I fear, however, that I shall be away on July 8th, for I am leaving here on the Fourth for some time on an inspection trip. I wonder if there is any chance of your being here before the Fourth? Otherwise, I fear, we shall have to postpone it until after I get back from my trip.

"Always sincerely yours,

"Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Justice Townsend Scudder,

"Glen Head, Long Island, N. Y."

On July 2, 1918, I again wrote Mr. Roosevelt as follows:

"July 2, 1918.

"Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,

"Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

"My dear Mr. Roosevelt:

"Let me thank you for yours of June the 29th. Would it be troubling you unduly to request that upon your return you communicate with me, to the end that I may run down to Washington to see you? I want to talk over something which I consider of very great importance. I am quite sure you will agree with me. I regret that I cannot get down between now and the 4th.

"Thanking you for your courtesy, believe me,

"Very sincerely yours,

"Glen Head, L. I., N. Y.

Townsend Scudder."

To this Mr. Roosevelt's secretary answered:

"NAVY DEPARTMENT
"Assistant Secretary's Office
"Washington

"July 8, 1918.

"My dear Mr. Scudder:

"Mr. Roosevelt is still out of town, but I shall call your letter to his attention immediately upon his return.

"Very sincerely yours, R. K. Camalier,
"Private Secretary.

"Justice Townsend Scudder,

"Supreme Court of the State of New York,
"Brooklyn, N. Y."

I was privately advised that Mr. Roosevelt had sailed for Europe.

I was also privately advised that Mr. Polk's illness was quite serious, and as, about this time he suffered a bereavement, I decided to avoid further troubling Mr. Polk at this inopportune time.

STATE DEPARTMENT'S REFUSAL TO ISSUE PASS- PORTS

Brother Knight and the chairman of your Mission have received from the State Department no notification of any action whatever on their applications for passports.

Brothers Prime, Thorne, and Treder, on the contrary, received the following:

"Department of State, Washington,
"July 2, 1918.

"Mr. William C. Prime,

"63 Hawthorne Avenue, Yonkers, New York.

"Sir:

"Referring to your recent application for a passport to enable you to go to France, England, Italy, and Switzerland on a 'Mission to Freemasons in the United States Forces Overseas,' you are informed that the Department, in accordance with an agreement with the War Department, does not grant passports enabling persons to go to France for work among the American troops unless such persons are going thither under the auspices of a recog-

nized relief or hospital organization doing work in that country. For this reason, the Department must decline to grant you a passport.

"Returning the fee of one dollar which accompanied your application, I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"For the Secretary of State:

"Alvey A. Adee,

"Second Assistant Secretary."

Brother Prime replied as follows:

"July 12, 1918.

"Hon. Alvey A. Adee,

"Second Assistant Secretary of State,

"Washington, D. C.

"Dear Sir:

"I duly received your letter of the 2nd instant, which has followed me to Massachusetts and back.

"May I venture to call your attention to the fact that the Mission, in connection with the journey of which to France application for a passport was for me made, was appointed by the Grand Master of Masons in the state of New York, whose original letter appointing Hon. Townsend Scudder, Erastus C. Knight, Oscar F. R. Treder, Rougier Thorne, and William C. Prime and requesting passports in their behalf was lodged by Judge Scudder with the State Department on May 19, 1918, and attached to his application for passport. When I applied for a passport at the New York Bureau, a memorandum was furnished the clerk in charge, referring to those papers attached to Judge Scudder's application.

"I understand that the determination upon the applications of all five for passports has been held in abeyance by both the State and War Departments until Mr. Fosdick's return and if there is any oversight in my case, suggest and request that it be considered in connection with the others in due course on Mr. Fosdick's return to Washington.

"Mr. McBride and Mr. Keppel, I think, are fully familiar with this situation.

"Respectfully,

"William C. Prime."

"Department of State, Washington,
"July 2, 1918.

"Mr. Rougier Thorne,
"Glen Cove,
"Nassau County, New York.

"Sir:
"Referring to your recent application for a passport to enable you to go to France, England, Italy and Switzerland on a 'Mission to Freemasons in the United States Forces Overseas,' you are informed that the Department, in accordance with an agreement with the War Department, does not grant passports enabling persons to go to France for work among the American troops unless such persons are going thither under the auspices of a recognized relief or hospital organization doing work in that country. For this reason, the Department must decline to grant you a passport.

"Returning the fee of one dollar which accompanied your application, I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,
"For the Secretary of State:
"Alvey A. Adee,
"Second Assistant Secretary."

Brother Thorne wrote to me enclosing the foregoing letter, as follows:

"Glen Cove, L. I., N. Y.
"July 8, 1918.

"Dear Judge:

"I enclose a letter, dated July 2nd, signed by Alvey A. Adee, Second Assistant Secretary of State, which advises me that the Department must decline to grant me a passport as a member of the Mission to Free Masons in the United States forces overseas.

"Fraternally,
Rougier Thorne.

"Hon. Townsend Scudder,
"Glen Head, L. I."

I replied to Brother Thorne as follows:

"July 9, 1918.

"Rougier Thorne, Esq.,
"Glen Cove, L. I.

"My dear Brother Thorne:

"I have your favor of July the 8th with enclosure. I believe a mistake has been made. I am now in negotiations with the War Department and State Department.

"I have a letter dated July the 2nd from the acting chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities which

clearly indicates to my mind that this matter is not closed, but is still open. I also have a letter from Mr. F. P. Keppel, Third Assistant Secretary of War, in which he tells me that Mr. Baker, the Secretary of War, feels with regard to our matter that as Mr. Fosdick is now in France, it would be better for us to await his return before a definite decision is made; and in another letter Mr. Keppel tells me that Mr. Fosdick has cabled recommending that the matter of our visit be held up pending his return, and still another letter in answer to one of mine suggesting that I have an opportunity of meeting Mr. Fosdick upon his return to discuss the Masonic War Relief work overseas with him, Mr. Keppel and Mr. McBride, in which he tells me that the date of Mr. Fosdick's return is uncertain, and this is followed by a letter from Mr. McBride, dated July the 2nd, in which he suggests deferring our meeting until Mr. Fosdick's return which he says will probably be in the course of a week or ten days.

"In light of these facts I deem it wise to say nothing of the receipt of your letter from Mr. Adee and of its contents lest the situation be complicated through what I am convinced is a mistake, due to lack of coördination between the Departments in Washington.

"It was distinctly agreed that the applications for passports of the members of the Masonic Mission were to be put to one side, and acted upon altogether, when the difficulty which has now so unexpectedly arisen, should have been overcome, as, of course, it must and will be.

"I have not received a notice similar to the one which you sent me and this confirms me in my belief that a mistake has been made.

"Sincerely, Townsend Scudder."

"Department of State, Washington,

"July 2, 1918.

"Mr. Oscar F. R. Treder,

"Garden City, Nassau Co., New York.

"Sir:

"Referring to your recent application for a passport to enable you to go to France, England, Italy and Switzerland on a 'Mission to Freemasons in the United States Forces Overseas,' you are informed that the Department, in accordance with an agreement with the War Department, does not grant passports enabling persons to go to France for work among the American troops unless such persons are going thither under the auspices of a recognized relief or hospital organization doing work in that

country. For this reason, the Department must decline to grant you a passport.

"Returning the fee of one dollar which accompanied your application, I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,
 "For the Secretary of State:
 "Alvey A. Adee,
 "Second Assistant Secretary."

"CATHEDRAL OF THE INCARNATION
 "Diocese of Long Island
 "Garden City, N. Y.

"July 8, 1918.

"Dear Judge Scudder:

"I enclose a copy of a letter received by me on Saturday morning. I tried to reach you by telephone to apprise you of the fact as soon as possible but was unable to do so.

"I presume, however, that you received a similar letter.

"I await further developments with great interest. With kind regards, and thanking you for your good letter anent my appointment as Grand Chaplain,

"Yours very sincerely,
 "Oscar F. R. Treder.

"The Honorable Townsend Scudder,
 "112 Willow Street, Brooklyn, New York."

"Rev. Oscar F. R. Treder, July 15, 1918.
 "Garden City, L. I.

"Dear Brother Treder:

"Let me thank you for yours of July the 8th. The notice which you received was, in my judgment, not final but due to a mistake and, of course, we are not discussing the matter as yet.

Sincerely,
 "Glen Head, L. I. Townsend Scudder."

The receipt of these letters of the State Department to Brothers Prime, Thorne, and Treder came as a distinct shock to us, partly because I had received no similar notification of rejection of my application, but more because I had been led to believe, as the correspondence hereinbefore set forth shows, that the matter would be held in abeyance until the return of Mr. Fosdick.

Either there was bad faith on the part of some one in government employ with whom we had had dealings, or a woeful lack of coördination between Departments.

When I had my interview in Washington with Mr. Welch of



Samuel W. Williams
S.E. MASTER
Tennessee

Jas. L. Michie
S.E.P. OR MASTER
South Carolina

Henry A. Grady
S.E.P. GRAND MASTER
North Carolina

Joseph W. Morris
S.E.P. MASTER
Oklahoma

Wm. M. Anderson
S.E.P. GRAND SECRETARY
Oklahoma

Chas. L. Brookway
S. & C. GRAND SECRETARY
South Dakota

Geo. A. Pettigrew
S.E.P. MASTER
South Dakota

MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE



the passport bureau, I left with him my own and Brother Knight's applications with the credentials of the entire Mission attached thereto; this was done by direction of Mr. Welch, who said that when the applications of the three other members of the Mission reached his bureau from the New York office, where they had been filed, they would be attached to the two others and all five acted upon as a unit.

I was unwilling to accept this action of the State Department as final, and wrote to Mr. McBride a letter of inquiry about Mr. Fosdick's return as follows:

"July 19, 1918.

"M. L. McBride, Esq.,

"War Department, Commission on Training Camp Activities,

"Washington, D. C.

"My dear Mr. McBride:

"If I have not already written to you to that effect, may I request you to advise me, address Glen Head, Long Island, N. Y., as soon as Mr. Fosdick has returned as I am anxious to see him and go over the Masonic situation with a view to a conclusive decision at the earliest date possible.

"Thanking you for your courtesy in the matter, I am,

"Sincerely yours,

"Townsend Scudder.

"Glen Head, L. I., N. Y."

To this I received the following reply, dated July 22, 1918, and the next day, July 23rd, I was at Mr. Fosdick's office in Washington:

"WAR DEPARTMENT

"Commission on Training Camp Activities
Washington

"July 22, 1918.

"Honorable Townsend Scudder,

"Glen Head, Long Island.

"My dear Judge Scudder:

"In answer to your letter of the 19th, Mr. Fosdick landed in New York yesterday, and will be in Washington late to-day, so that you can arrange to see him by appointment any time now. I am sure he will be happy to confer with you relative to your interest in matters overseas.

"With kind regards, cordially yours,

"Malcolm L. McBride,

"McB:RB

Acting Chairman."

SURPRISING INTERVIEWS WITH MR. FOSDICK

I went to Washington, remained there for four days, and had several interviews with Mr. Fosdick. I shall not attempt to separate these several conversations, but treat them as a unit, except that the last interview at this time was on the train between Washington and New York.

After a short preliminary conversation, I asked him what the difficulty was which seemed to stand in the Masonic Mission's way. He replied that since his advent in France, his viewpoint had changed, and that he had grave doubts now whether the fraternity could carry out its project of independent service abroad. He then went on to state his reasons.

One was that the furnishing of transportation facilities was a source of embarrassment to the military authorities, particularly in the crowded areas near the front; another, that it was unwise, from the military standpoint, that there should be any more civilians in these areas because of the danger of military secrets leaking out; still another, that there existed jealousies and rivalries among the various civilian organizations abroad, and that to add to the number of non-military bodies would simply increase the general confusion. He also pointed out that the question of the transportation of our equipment and supplies would be very difficult, if not impossible, of independent arrangement, having perhaps forgotten his previous statement to me that, as far as our literature was concerned, it could doubtless be forwarded to us in Europe by the Librarian of Congress, and my previous statement that we would not engage in canteen work.

As to his first objection, that of transportation to, and in, the crowded areas behind the front, I pointed out that the government having excluded us from the camps, the cantonments, and the fronts, all our negotiations had been based upon our proposal to confine our activities to the so-called leaveareas, and therefore this question of transportation, as put forward by him, did not seem pertinent. Furthermore, in view of our contemplating sending not over fifty (50) men abroad, it could hardly be urged that this small number could strain transportation facilities anywhere.

The reasons I had in mind the number of fifty men as a maximum, which I gave to him, were that fifty would enable every Masonic Jurisdiction in the United States to have one of its members engaged in this work. I told him, however, that I really believed that about twenty-five would more likely be the number because many of the Jurisdictions would join in being represented by the same man. If this number of fifty seemed to him too great, I would willingly stipulate that the maximum should be twenty-five. "Would the contemplated fifty," I asked, "be the final straw to break the camel's back?"

As to the betrayal of military secrets, I said that it was inconceivable that the great Masonic fraternity could not furnish fifty men whose loyalty and discretion would be above suspicion. These men would be volunteers, carefully selected, whose whole record would be subjected to the closest scrutiny, and if the government had an objection to any of them, others would be substituted. The Y. M. C. A. and Knights of Columbus were *advertising* in the newspapers for paid secretaries. If the government could accept, as it did, men so secured, how much more could it safely accept, from our fraternity, picked men, volunteers, whose sole desire and ambition it was, temporarily giving up their own important affairs, to render service for service's sake. Mr. Fosdick responded by saying that the French government held General Pershing responsible for all civilians entering France from the United States, and that the general objected to the entry of more because of lack of proper means for their investigation by him. Mr. Fosdick further asked how, if our number were limited to twenty-five, we could expect to render effective service. I responded that I thought General Pershing's objection to the necessity for his investigation of civilians was well founded, and that civilians should be, and could far better be, investigated before leaving American shores. Furthermore, as to the possible limitation of our Masonic personnel to twenty-five, I explained that our Masonic secretaries, being all executive men, would be the directing heads, each in a separate leavearea, the number of which, as I understood from Mr. Fosdick, and as I told him I did, would be about fifteen, leaving the so-called menial work to be performed by hired help, of which, we were informed, we could secure all we would need from

among partially disabled French soldiers and aged men and women still capable of some service. This, in itself, would be a benefit to the French and to us. I further explained that such was the nature of our institution that the social and entertainment features of our activities would largely be in the hands of Masons on leave from the army and navy, acting as quasi hosts to any man in uniform seeking our hospitality.

As explained to us in letters from Masons serving overseas urging the establishment by us of recreation centers, there was a constant stream of men on leave coming to, and returning from, the leaveareas, thus furnishing always an ample number of volunteer hosts due to the large number of Masons serving with the colors.

Regarding jealousies and rivalries between non-military organizations serving abroad, I told him that the Masonic fraternity had a quarrel with nobody, and that the character of the men we would send abroad would be such that they would invite no controversies. Our sole ambition was to do our duty, to serve efficiently, and quarrels would be incompatible therewith.

"How about the feud between you and the Knights of Columbus?" asked Mr. Fosdick.

I told him that it took two to make a quarrel and that we had none with them. As an evidence of their feeling toward us in this war work, I showed him the following letters:

"Thomas J. Evers, Chairman Edward B. Goate, Director
 "KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
 "Coney Island Week Committee
 "Aug. 26 to Aug 31st inclusive
 "For War Camp Activities Fund
 "Long Island Chapter
 "Headquarters, 381 Fulton St., Room 3
 "Telephone, Main 6061
 "Brooklyn, N. Y., June 26, 1918.

"Mr. Geo. W. Menke,
 "231 Albany Ave.,
 "Brooklyn, N. Y.

"My dear George:

"The affairs of the Knights of Columbus have so shaped themselves that I am now in a position to make arrangements with the Masonic Order for their participation. We desire to have the participation of your Order in the first

day of the weekly doings, which we have called 'Fraternity Day,' the feature of which will be a parade in which all of the Fraternal Societies on Long Island will take part. Many of the societies have volunteered representation, and we feel that the project would not be a complete success unless we had a representation from your Body.

"The most influential men of the City, State and Country are to be our guests, as you will see from the fact that the guests of honor for the following nights are to be as follows:

Tuesday, Mayor Hylan as the guest of honor.

Wednesday, Gov. Whitman as the guest of honor.

Thursday, Secretary Daniels as the guest of honor.

Friday, Secretary Baker as the guest of honor.

"Will you be kind enough to take this up with the proper officials of your order, and advise me just what steps it will be necessary for me to take in order for me to have the presence of our Masonic brothers assured on this occasion.

"Very sincerely yours,

"Thos. J. Evers, Chairman."

"BEDFORD LODGE, NO. 574, F. & A. M.

"Aurora Grata Cathedral

"Bedford Avenue and Madison Street

"Brooklyn, July 3, 1918.

"William S. Farmer, Esq.,

"Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York,

"Greetings:

"The enclosed letter is in a measure self-explanatory. In brief, Mr. Evers is a personal friend of mine of many years standing, in whom I repose the utmost confidence, which is reciprocated, and accounts for his communicating with me regarding the participation of the Masonic Fraternity in the Knights of Columbus Coney Island War Drive.

"Action has been withheld by me until his return from Washington, where he secured the assurances of the Secretary of the War and Navy Depts. of their presence on the days stated, or if not possible, then through a representative of the highest ranking Army and Navy officer, or by an Assistant Secretary of the respective Departments on the nights in question.

"Monday night, Aug. 26th, is, as stated by Mr. Evers, to be known as Fraternity night, and invitations are to be extended to various Fraternities to participate in a parade.

"The purpose of the drive is to raise One Million Dollars on Long Island for the continuance of their War Camp activities, and the arrangements which have been made

provides a One Dollar admission to all the leading attractions, 50% of which is to be retained by the Amusement proprietors, and the balance to their Fund—the smaller amusement places and business men are to donate a certain percentage of their gross receipts—this arrangement to continue from Aug. 26th to 31st, both nights inclusive.

“The participation of the Masonic fraternity in this parade is earnestly desired by the K. of C. War Camp Committee, not only to assist in their purpose, but for the object lesson it may teach to the people as a whole, and should it be possible to do so as a fraternity, I am assured our institution will receive the recognition due its high and exalted station.

“Personally, I do not know whether we, as Masons, could enter into this proposal; but as the communication from Mr. Evers is in his official capacity as chairman, I therefore submit it to you for such action as you deem proper; but if a way can be found to do so, I earnestly recommend that the proposal receive favorable consideration, and everything done by us to assure a satisfactory representation. I am convinced that such action must have a wonderful effect on our less enlightened brethren,—if it takes an institution as big and great as ours to do real good and promote true friendship and brotherly love, I am sure Freemasonry will not be found wanting.

“Should you desire me to personally call upon you or some one designated by you I will gladly answer such summons at any time and at any place, either accompanied by Mr. Evers or alone.

“Thanking you in advance for the serious consideration I know this will receive, I remain,

“Fraternally,

“G. W. Menke, Jr. Warden.”

I also called his attention to the fact that when the Catholic Orphanage at Utica, New York, had been destroyed by fire, the Masonic fraternity organized an entertainment by the children of our Masonic Home in that city, the proceeds of which were devoted to the reconstruction of the orphanage, and that our fraternity had received grateful acknowledgement therefor.

Mr. Fosdick appearing somewhat skeptical on the point of our relations, I offered to ask the heads of the Knights of Columbus to call upon him, when, I felt, they would urge the issuance to us of the desired passports.

Regarding his objection that the transportation of our equipment and supplies would be very difficult, if not impossible, I pointed out that we did not purpose going into the canteen business, and that our main supplies would be the principal periodicals and newspapers from the United States which, he had previously said, could doubtless be sent to us by the Librarian of the Congressional Library.

Furthermore, I told him that, because of negotiations had with the Y. M. C. A., we had reason to believe that satisfactory arrangements could be made with them whereby there would be available to us their means of entertainment, like movies, and supplies such as tobacco, chocolate, etc.

Asked by Mr. Fosdick why we did not go over under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., I replied that very naturally we preferred to go over independently, and that the call by our fellow Masons with the colors was for independent service, and because, having received the government's approval of such independent service, all our arrangements had been made accordingly.

Thereupon, Mr. Fosdick voiced objections from a new angle. The conversation which ensued, while not given *ipsissimis verbis*, was practically as follows:

Fosdick: "Do you know that the French government has constituted General Pershing as sort of czar as far as anything American in France is concerned, and those whom he doesn't want there must leave? There is no appeal from General Pershing's decisions. Except with his consent you could do nothing when you reached there. You couldn't rent a store or building, or open a hut for your purpose, because before a French property owner could rent his premises, the French authorities would refer it to General Pershing and his consent would have to be had."

Scudder: "If such are the rules, we Masons would comply with them. If the other organizations working in France can be effective under them, we can too."

Fosdick: "General Pershing is opposed to the introduction of any new agencies. He has enough to do in dealing with the ones he has there now. Pershing said he favored all war relief

work being in the hands of the military or under one single civilian organization.' My own experience on the other side confirms me in the wisdom of this plan."

Scudder: "Why don't you place it all under the military, then?"

Fosdick: "Perhaps we will, although it may be the thing has gone too far for that now."

Scudder: "But if you don't put it under one control, why discriminate against the Masons?"

Fosdick: "I do not discriminate against the Masons. My grandfather was one and I have a great regard for them. But I put it up to Pershing and he said, 'Keep them away from here.'"

Scudder: "Did you explain to General Pershing that the Masonic activities were to be confined to the leaveareas and that our war service in no respect would be identified with our usual activities as a secret society?"

Fosdick: "I covered the ground fully with General Pershing. He said it was very uncomfortable for him to have American citizens, for whom he was held responsible by the French government, enter France as secretaries of relief organizations, and then arrested by the French authorities and shot as German spies, as has happened."

Scudder: "Even so, it would hardly apply to us for this reason. No one enters the Masonic fraternity without investigation of his character and previous history. The men we would send over would be men of long membership, whose record is known, on whom we could implicitly rely, and for whom we would unhesitatingly vouch. In addition, we would offer you every facility for yourself investigating them. Surely, if you can take the large number of men as secretaries of the Y. M. C. A. and K. of C., applying for positions as such in answer to advertisements, you could with safety accept our men, few in number, and well recommended."

Fosdick: "Does the Masonic fraternity persist in its overseas ambitions in the face of the expressed opposition of General Pershing?"

Scudder: "If it has come to that, or will come to that, the

Masonic fraternity will do nothing to add to General Pershing's burdens and responsibilities. The fraternity has but one desire, to serve helpfully, and its ambition in this regard would not be satisfied if its efforts made heavier the burdens of General Pershing, but, as yet, nothing has been said which makes this the issue. To me it is patent that General Pershing should be relieved of the burden of passing upon the loyalty, trustworthiness, and discretion of secretaries sent overseas to conduct war relief work, and he should not be held responsible for them, though his authority over them, of course, should stand. The government should investigate the candidates for secretaries abroad here where it can be more deliberately done and where the evidence is at hand. Of course, isolated disloyal secretaries may slip through and these will, in any event, have to be dealt with on the other side, but I fail to see what difference it makes whether the secretaries are working under the Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, or the Masonic fraternity, provided they are the right sort of men."

Fosdick: "But bringing in the Masons creates another agency and the practical difficulty in your way can not be disregarded. It is not only a question of General Pershing, but it is also a question of the French government. Before you can accomplish anything your credentials will have to be passed upon by the French government, and all your movements will be retarded while your men and credentials are under the investigation of the French government. In my mind there are grave doubts whether the French government will want you."

Scudder: "The invitations that we have received from Masons in France lead us to believe that there will be no question of our welcome over there. Give us the chance to get in touch with the French authorities and we have reason to believe that they will not object to us and our work. If they do, we shall have a good explanation of our failure to serve independently overseas."

Fosdick: "But there is the opposition of General Pershing, and as far as we are concerned he should be controlling."

Scudder: "Do you think that General Pershing thoroughly understood the limited sphere of Masonic activities in Europe,

that our work was to be confined to the leaveareas, and that our personnel would be limited to fifty?"

Fosdick: "I explained the matter fully to him."

Scudder: "We have received another version of General Pershing's position with reference to our fraternity. As it came to us, you are reported as having asked General Pershing whether the Masons should be permitted to engage in war relief work in France, and General Pershing is reported to have replied, in effect, that all this service ought to be under the military or a single civilian head, but that, because there were already several civilian agencies now engaged in the work, the question of whether the Masons should be allowed to come in also was a political question which Washington should settle and not he."

Fosdick: "My version of the conversation with General Pershing is correct."

Scudder: "The Masons have at least a hundred thousand of their members with the colors, and the nearly two million active Masons in the United States will hardly accept as good reasons for their exclusion from war relief work those which have been given, except your statement of the opposition of General Pershing to which we would be forced to bow, although not accepting it as well founded. I fail to see how that can be used.

"How can the Department permit to go out to the large number of Masons serving abroad the word that the opposition to the fraternity's overseas service came from the Commanding General?"

"How, too, about such action impairing confidence in the Commanding General on the part of the Masons at home who have so loyally supported the government, despite our disappointment over being debarred from relief work, and contributed so liberally to overseas work by other organizations?"

"To make public the nature of this opposition as the justification for Masonic exclusion will dishearten and disturb a very considerable body of our citizens here, as well as Masons in the ranks. I do not see how it can be made public now."

Fosdick: "But General Pershing's attitude is not personal to the Masons, it is to all like organizations. He objects to any new agencies and would have the whole relief work under the military authorities, and I may recommend this myself to the

Secretary of War, or I may urge that all this work be put under one civilian head who will be directly responsible to General Pershing."

Scudder: "I am here representing about two million loyal American citizens who are eager to serve their country. I must make my report to them and I want it to be satisfying. I do not want it to be one which will chill them or breed dissatisfaction. This is not a time when there should be differences between our people, and unnecessary issues which disturb peace of mind and defeat perfect unity and coöperation must be avoided. What reasons will the War Department give me in writing, so that I may present them to the fraternity to satisfy it that its case has been duly considered and acted upon in an unbiased way? The reasons must appeal to the common sense of our people and be acceptable as good because they are valid."

Fosdick: "I am going to take the whole matter up with the Secretary of War very shortly, perhaps this very evening, and I will arrange for a meeting between you and him if you feel that that will help the situation. I recognize that it is embarrassing."

Scudder: "I will gladly meet Secretary Baker and will hold myself in readiness here in Washington until I hear from you as to time and place of meeting him."

Fosdick: "I will make the appointment and communicate with you at your hotel. Have you considered taking this matter up with the President?"

Scudder: "That thought has gone through my mind, but I have been somewhat embarrassed over the question of procedure. On one hand, it is difficult to put on paper in a condensed form that will fully cover the situation, the history of the Masonic fraternity's efforts to serve overseas and the reasons for its desire to do so; on the other, I would dislike to have to give my version of a conversation with the President, particularly if he were to take the same position which you are taking. Even if I explained the President's position as accurately as I could, a controversy might be precipitated, and the accuracy of my version of the conversation with the President challenged. I served in congress years ago in the days of the Ananias Club. I have no desire to have it revived."

Fosdick: "I am hoping we can reach the satisfactory solution

which we are both seeking. I am trying to do my duty in the premises, and appreciate the difficulties and embarrassments which are confronting you. I will talk it all over with the Secretary of War, and will arrange for this interview between you and him as well. Perhaps a way can be found to meet the situation."

Scudder: "Is there any objection to the personnel of our mission as now constituted? If so, we can substitute other men?"

Fosdick: "There is not the slightest objection to the personnel. The opposition is to the introduction of a new agency."

Scudder: "We have proposed to the Y. M. C. A. that we might join them and do our work under their auspices as a branch of their activities."

Fosdick: "That would solve the whole question. Why do you not do it?"

Scudder: "Up to the present time we have not been able to reach a working agreement. The Y. M. C. A. are employing a great number of Free Masons as secretaries and gladly receive our financial support, but they have not as yet seen their way clear to accord us sufficient independence to meet the longings of our own people to have the Masonic fraternity in name as well as in fact identified with war relief work. Our boys with the colors crave the opportunity of being hosts under their own roof and reciprocating the courtesies they are receiving from the Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, and others."

Fosdick: "Reach a working agreement with the Y. M. C. A. and the difficulty will be solved. Our opposition is to the introduction of a new agency independently."

Scudder: "But it ought not be overlooked that the Masons are not a new agency. We are not seeking a new permit to engage in war relief work. We are not in the same class with the organizations whose petitions to engage in such work, you tell me, have recently been received by the War Department. Our petition was filed with you months ago. It was favorably acted upon by you; your consent was given to us to engage in this work. On the strength of that consent we called together the Grand Masters of Masons in the United States and had the

enterprise endorsed. We appointed our committee to represent the fraternity. We have started and have already raised, exclusively from our own members, large sums of money to carry on our work, and the fact that we were in this work with the government's consent was given to the public press, all on the strength of the government's action, and in the light of all these circumstances we should not now be classed with agencies who are only now seeking to enter this field."

Fosdick: "I appreciate the embarrassment of it all and can assure you it will be given our best thought. I hope you will decide to go to the President, but in any event I will arrange a meeting with Secretary Baker and advise you."

Here we parted.

During my stay in Washington I had several conversations with Mr. Fosdick over the telephone. I was called up by him, and I also called up his office. He told me that he and Secretary Baker were considering the matter but had not yet reached the point where they could submit a concrete proposition to me for discussion. I was finally asked whether I could not return to Washington the following week, that Mr. Baker had to leave, and that there was no prospect of reaching a conclusion before his departure. I accordingly agreed to hold myself in readiness to return to Washington the moment summoned. In the meantime, however, I had decided to confer with Mr. Joseph P. Tumulty, the Secretary to the President. I did not advise Mr. Fosdick of this fact, and my interview with Mr. Tumulty is given under a separate head.

It chanced, however, that I met Mr. Fosdick on the train which I took to return to New York and we had occasion again to discuss our matter. This discussion will be reported under a separate head because it raised a new issue involving our Scottish Rite brethren.

THE SCOTTISH RITE BROUGHT IN

As already stated, Mr. Fosdick and I met by chance on the train from Washington to New York. He told me that since he had last spoken to me over the 'phone he had received a call from some gentlemen representing the Scottish Rite and that their spokesman, Judge George Fleming Moore, had expressed to him the desire of the Scottish Rite Masonry to engage in war relief work in France. Mr. Fosdick told me that the outline of the work that Judge Moore had presented showed his purpose to be similar to what we New York men had in mind. The following conversation ensued, the substance of which I give:

Fosdick: "I told Judge Moore that the work which he projected was similar to that which was projected by the New York Masons, that the government had under advisement the application of the New York Masons to engage in this, and that it would be necessary for Judge Moore to work in harmony with the New York men because the government could deal with but one head should it be decided to allow Masons to enter the overseas field."

Scudder: "Did you tell Judge Moore that the overseas work as planned by the Masonic Mission was of such a nature that all Masonic bodies could join in it, the only effect of so doing being that the more money contributed, the greater would be the extent of the work?"

Fosdick: "Yes, I covered the ground with him, but you do not seem to be in accord. Judge Moore told me that if but one permit for overseas work was to be granted to the Masonic fraternity, it should be granted to him and his committee and not to the New York committee; that he, Judge Moore, represented the aristocracy of the Masonic fraternity, the head of it; and that it was not consistent that the tail should wag the dog."

Scudder: "I think Judge Moore will not repeat that statement in our presence. He must know of what happened in New York at the conference of Grand Masters held there in May. I think it highly desirable that when the meeting is arranged between yourself, Secretary Baker, and me, Judge Moore be also invited, for I am quite persuaded that you will find him in perfect accord with us and anxious to work with us."

Fosdick: "Does Judge Moore represent a higher authority in the Masonic fraternity than you do?"

Scudder: "He does not. It is all a case of wheels within wheels. Judge Moore is the head of the Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction, the membership of which is perhaps a hundred thousand. I am representing the forty-nine Grand Masonic Jurisdictions of the United States and its membership is not far from two million. I am also myself a Scottish Rite Mason, but my membership in the Scottish Rite and all my honors therein would fall if I lost my membership in my lodge. The lodge is the beginning and end of Masonry. True, we have subdivided into many parts. The subdivisions are purely social. Membership in each one of them is dependent upon membership in a lodge, and each one of these subdivisions has its own officers known by special titles, but these subdivisions do not shape the course of the Masonic fraternity, nor do they control it, nor are they superior to it. The organized charities of the Masonic fraternity are directed more particularly through the medium of Masonic lodges."

Fosdick: "This is all very interesting, but you and Judge Moore seem to have a different conception of the relative importance of the bodies which you represent. He says that his body is the head of Masonry and you say that yours is. It is your lack of coördination as a fraternity which has hampered the government in its effort to deal with you."

Scudder: "Fix the time for the meeting with the Secretary of War, invite Judge Moore, I will be there too, and you will find that there is no lack of coördination."

Fosdick: "I will let you know when and where the meeting will be held."

Here we parted.

More or less disturbed by this injection of the Scottish Rite into our difficulties, I felt it wise immediately to get into touch with Judge Moore and acquaint him with the danger of the situation and how destructive it would be of our ambitions to serve overseas if the impression made by his interview with Mr. Fosdick was not corrected. Accordingly I wrote to Judge Moore a letter, a copy of which follows, and to make sure that he knew

of the authority under which we were acting and the magnitude of the movement, I also sent him a copy of the minutes of the meeting of Grand Masters of Masons held in New York on May the 9th, marking therein those passages which more particularly dealt with our overseas enterprise.

"July 27th, 1918.

"To the Honorable George Fleming Moore,
"Grand Commander,
"Scottish Rite Temple, 16th & S St., N. W.,
"Washington, D. C.

"My dear Judge Moore:

"I have just learned that the Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction are ambitious to render Masonic service overseas to the men with the colors. Doubtless, you know that New York is committed to a plan to render similar service if the opportunity can be found.

"I am fearful that without coördination neither of us will realize our heart's desire in this respect. It may be a case of united we stand, divided we fall. Certainly there is work enough for all, cheering and comforting our boys. I am informed that a conference, perhaps, will be called for next week to discuss the service overseas you and we have proposed. As soon as I learn the date I will hasten to Washington in the hope of seeing you before we meet at that conference, to obtain the benefit of your advice. I am sending to you under separate cover the minutes of the Conference of Grand Masters held in New York in May of this year and take the liberty of marking certain pages which present New York's viewpoint, more or less accurately. The volume does not contain the correspondence since the conference was held inviting us to proceed and giving assurance of coöperation and support. We feel there is now behind the movement a force which assures success.

"I greatly regret I missed you this week. Looking forward to meeting you in the near future and with fraternal regards, I am,

"Fraternally yours,

"Townsend Scudder.

"P. S. I can be reached by wire Glen Head, New York."

Acknowledgement was received from Judge Moore as follows:

"WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

"July 30, 1918.

"Your special delivery letter received. Will write.

"George F. Moore."

Judge Moore failed to write as he stated in his telegram he would do, and during the interim between the receipt of his telegram on July 30th and our next communication from him on August 26th, correspondence had passed between Mr. Fosdick and me not relating to the Scottish Rite and will be set forth later herein. This correspondence is taken out of its proper chronological order in the interest of a more consecutive narrative. We therefore continue with Judge Moore.

On August 26th I received the following telegram:

"WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

"1918 Aug 26 P.M. 1.05

"Dioow 28

"PN WASHINGTON DC 1255 P 26

"Judge Townsend Scudder,

"Masonic Hall, 23rd St. and 6th Ave., New York City.

"Sovereign Grand Commander Moore has commissioned me to visit you in New York to discuss Masonic work abroad, please wire me when and where I can meet you tomorrow.

"Hugh T. Stevenson."

A reply to this was immediately sent, and Mr. Stevenson met M. W. Robert Judson Kenworthy, the Grand Secretary of New York, and me at the Grand Secretary's office on the evening of August 27th. After the usual introductions he informed us that he had read on his way up from Washington every word of the proceedings of the Grand Masters' meeting held in New York in May, and had therefrom learned for the first time that we actually had the written consent of the government to engage in war relief work; that Judge Moore and he contended that they had been promised for the Scottish Rite a like permit, but as a matter of fact that they did not have it except by word of mouth, and that both Secretary Baker and Mr. Fosdick disputed having made them any promise. He inquired whether we had faith in Mr. Fosdick or whether we believed he was trying to double-cross us. Upon being told that we took Mr. Fosdick at his word and were relying upon the written consent from him to engage in overseas work, he said that he entertained grave doubts whether the Scottish Rite would be able to get an independent consent for their enterprise, and inquired whether Judge Moore could not join ours. We explained to Brother Stevenson

that we felt that the only way for any of us to carry out the wishes of the fraternity would be by working together, that our plan of action, as he had learned from his perusal of the Grand Masters' proceedings, was broad enough to take in any one who wished to join, and that we would be very glad to welcome all who cared to come in.

We further told him of the projected meeting between ourselves, Secretary Baker, and Mr. Fosdick, and renewed the invitation to Judge Moore to join us in that conference and by our conduct convince the Secretary of War and Mr. Fosdick that there was no division in the fraternity. Mr. Stevenson concurred in the wisdom of this course, and said that he would return to Washington that same evening, see Judge Moore, and wire us Judge Moore's decision upon the question whether he would work with us or independently.

On August 28th Brother Stevenson duly telegraphed as follows:

"WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

"1918 Aug 28 P.M. 1.23

"F 79 W 10

"Mc Washington DC 12.05 P 28

"Hon. Townsend Scudder,

"Masonic Hall, 6th Ave and 23rd St., New York, N. Y.

"Report satisfactory to Grand Commander will work unitedly. Letter follows.

"Hugh T. Stevenson."

Brother Stevenson, at his interview with us in New York, told us that Judge Moore and he had a friend in Washington who could bring our matter to a head quickly, and that if Judge Moore would agree to participate in our Masonic Mission, he, Stevenson, would avail himself of the services of this friend, and keep us posted.

On August 29th we received from Brother Stevenson the following telegram:

"WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

"32 NY AG 50

"MS New York N. Y., 1229P Aug. 29, 1918

"Hon. Townsend Scudder,

"Glen Head, N. Y.

"Friend promises quick action will seek tomorrow morning for an early conference between Fosdick, Jamieson,

Moore, you and myself for some evening soon, possibly Friday. If satisfactory to all as soon as I learn of Fosdick's open dates will notify you.

"Expect all to go except those within draft age.

"Hugh T. Stevenson.

"150 P 29th"

The foregoing telegram of August 29th was followed by another:

"WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

"55 NY AG21 Rush IX

"MS New York, N. Y., Aug. 29, 455P

"Hon. Townsend Scudder,

"Glen Head, N. Y.

"Can you come here for conference tomorrow dinner with Moore and myself at five meet others at seven thirty answer.

"Hugh T. Stevenson.

"552P"

To this last telegram I replied that I would go to Washington to keep the engagement he proposed. This I did. This telegram was crossed by a letter I had sent to Brother Stevenson on August 28th.

He had urged upon Brother Kenworthy and me to utilize his presence in Washington to further our negotiations with the government, intimating that, while his relations with Secretary Baker were very cordial, he could not with certainty say the same with reference to Mr. Fosdick, because he had noticed that Mr. Fosdick was frequently "out" or "engaged" when he called at his office.

To assist Brother Stevenson to obtain an interview with Mr. Fosdick for the particular purpose of hastening the conference between Fosdick, Secretary Baker, Moore, and me, I wrote, in a long letter to Mr. Fosdick, a paragraph as follows:

"There is on the ground in Washington a gentleman in whom we place confidence and with whom we feel you can talk this matter over to advantage. My reference is to the Rev. Hugh T. Stevenson, 157 U St., N.W."

I sent a copy of this letter to Mr. Fosdick enclosed in a letter to Brother Stevenson, as follows:

“August 28, 1918.

“Rev. Hugh T. Stevenson,
“157 U Street, N. W.,
“Washington, D. C.

“Dear Mr. Stevenson:

“I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mr. Fosdick. I hope it will meet your approval and pave the way to a conference between you and him which will open the door a little wider. I am indeed happy that we have gotten together and am hopeful of splendid results.

“Looking forward to seeing you in the near future, believe me

“Sincerely,

“Glen Head, L. I., Townsend Scudder.
“N. Y.

“Your telegram received. Am glad indeed the situation is so promising.”

On the same day, August 28th, Brother Stevenson wrote to me the following:

“The
“SUPREME COUNCIL
“of the
“Thirty-third Degree
“A. and A. Scottish Rite
“Southern Jurisdiction
“of U. S. A.

George F. Moore,
Sovereign Grand Commander

“Washington City, August 28, 1918.

“Judge Townsend Scudder,
“Masonic Hall, New York City.

“Dear Sir and Brother:

“Immediately upon my return this morning from our conference last evening I made my report to the Sovereign Grand Commander. He approves everything that I agreed with you about and there will be absolutely united action between us and yourself. I will see my friend this afternoon and commence to do what I promised in reference to pushing matters. It is possible but not probable that events may shape themselves so that Judge Moore and I may be in New York Friday or Saturday, although I am very apt to think that due to the congestion of travel on account of Labor Day and my own work, it will not be possible for me to be there before next Tuesday.

“I shall prepare a memorandum that will reach Secretary Baker within the next few days but before sending that

memorandum to him a copy will be sent to you for any suggestions you may desire to make.

"In closing, permit me to say that I appreciate the courtesy and fraternal spirit exhibited both by yourself and Brother Kenworthy to me last evening and I will ask you both to look over an official report that I must make for the records of the Sovereign Grand Commander when I again see you.

"Hoping that by our joint action things will now move with rapidity and we can not only 'go over' but 'put it over,' I remain,

"Fraternally yours,
"Hugh T. Stevenson."

Upon my arrival in Washington I was met by Brother Stevenson, who first drove me to the House of the Temple, where I met Judge Moore. Thereafter we three took dinner together, and went very fully over the situation as we understood it and the course which we should pursue when we entered into conversations with Mr. Fosdick and such other representatives of the government as might be with him.

We anticipated that we were to see Secretary Baker, but we afterward learned that he was leaving Washington that very evening.

Judge Moore told me that he had as yet obtained no written consent from the government to engage in war relief work overseas as the representative of the Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction; that the amount of money at his command for this purpose was very small, only twenty thousand dollars, which, he recognized, would not go very far; that he had been approached by the Odd Fellows, who were anxious to serve overseas, and felt that his position with the government would be strengthened by his representing this society as well as the Southern Jurisdiction. He said that if the War Department sought to distinguish between the Scottish Rite and the Masonic Grand Jurisdictions, and if it would not grant to the Scottish Rite an independent permit to engage in war work, he would make application to his own Grand Lodge, Alabama, and secure an appointment by its Grand Master as the representative of Alabama on the Masonic Mission planned by New York and endorsed by the Grand Masters' meeting in New York.

Judge Moore added that he was getting to be an old man, that his own work would have to be entirely executive, and that, to enable him to accomplish what he had to do, it would be necessary for him to take with him brethren whom he had selected as his aides. I told him that there would be no objection to that; that under our arrangement with the War Department the personnel of our Mission could be enlarged so that each state would have a representative if this was desired, and that, as the men whom he named hailed from different states and were prominent, I saw no reason why they should not all join, provided, of course, they were satisfactory to the government and to their respective Masonic jurisdictions.

I took this opportunity to tell Judge Moore what Mr. Fosdick had told me about Judge Moore's remark that if there was to be only one permit to the Masonic fraternity, it should be issued to the Scottish Rite, as represented by Judge Moore, and not to the Grand Lodges' Mission, that it was not appropriate that the tail should wag the dog, and that the Scottish Rite represented the aristocracy and brains of the Masonic fraternity.

All these statements attributed to him Judge Moore categorically denied, and, in turn, told me that Mr. Fosdick had said that I, Scudder, had spoken most disparagingly of the Scottish Rite. Needless to say, this was untrue.

Mr. Fosdick joined us about this time. He was accompanied by the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Committee, as I understood it, and we forthwith entered into the discussion of the matter which had brought us together.

Judge Moore told Mr. Fosdick that he understood the Secretary of War had given him (Judge Moore) permission to go overseas to survey the field and undertake such war relief work for the Masonic fraternity as he might find there was to do after his survey.

Mr. Fosdick replied that Judge Moore was mistaken; that no such permit had been given, and that the only permit given by the government to the Masonic fraternity to engage in overseas war relief work was the permit held by the New York Mission, adding that the government would recognize but one head of any one organization. Mr. Fosdick then expressed his doubt wheth-

er it would be wise for the Masons to engage independently in the work they contemplated, and gave as the reasons for this conclusion many of the reasons which he had previously urged upon me in my conversations with him in the latter part of July. The merits of these reasons were quite fully discussed, but the question of Masonic disunity was not again brought up by Mr. Fosdick. The trend of our conversation established clearly that the fraternity stood as a unit, and that if it was permitted to send its representatives overseas to engage in war relief work, all would go under the auspices of the several Grand Lodges, under the permit of April 23, 1918, signed by Mr. Fosdick as chairman of the Committee on Training Camp Activities of the War Department, and in harmony with the plan adopted at the New York Grand Masters' Conference.

Although Masonic unity had been made clear, Mr. Fosdick's opposition to the Masonic fraternity engaging in war relief work overseas became nevertheless very marked. He mentioned a certain document which he had prepared which, according to him, fully explained and, in his opinion, justified the refusal of the government to let the Masonic Mission sail. He asked Judge Moore whether he would give his endorsement to it, mentioning that he had already sent it to Judge Moore for consideration. This document I had never seen, and its contents I do not know, but Judge Moore then and there said that he could not approve it or sanction its going out with his endorsement, either expressed or implied, as it did not meet the situation. Mr. Fosdick then said that he would have the document signed by the Secretary of War even without Judge Moore's approval and close the incident. From this position we were unable to move him. He had not said in so many words that our permit was revoked, but we all understood that it would be revoked when the Secretary of War signed the document to which Mr. Fosdick had referred.

Judge Moore then said to Mr. Fosdick, "I am anxious to visit certain Masonic bodies of Europe. As Sovereign Grand Commander I have business relationship with them, there are pending between us important matters which must be settled. Some of these bodies have conferred honors upon me and have

been waiting a long time to present me with my honorary membership and otherwise entertain me. I am getting to be an old man and am very anxious to close up the open matters with these European Masonic bodies and also to accept the honors they have conferred and not keep them waiting for me any longer. Is there objection to my obtaining passports for this purpose." Mr. Fosdick replied that to this there was no objection; that we could all go on such Masonic business as this, because it would be recognized by the government as legitimate business between the representatives of the Masonic fraternity in America and the representatives of the fraternity on the other side, and that the issuing of passports for the purpose of transacting it would be within the rules and that the passports for this purpose would be given. Turning to me, Mr. Fosdick asked whether I also would not go to Europe on the same business and whether my thus going would not relieve the situation. Judge Moore also extended a similar invitation and expressed the pleasure it would give him if we could travel together. I told Mr. Fosdick that I appreciated Judge Moore's desires to go for the purposes which he had mentioned, but that personally I had no such business on the other side; that I would go to carry out the will of the Masonic fraternity to serve our men with the colors, or I would not go at all. Shortly after this Mr. Fosdick withdrew, to keep an appointment with the Secretary of War, as he told us.

We separated with the understanding that Judge Moore, accompanied by Brother Samuel P. Cochran of Texas, and Brother Hugh T. Stevenson, would sail for Europe as soon as they could get their passports, but that the Masonic Mission would continue its efforts on this side to obtain the passports to which it considered its Mission was entitled under the government's consent of April 23d, and failing in this, to connect with Y. M. C. A. if that was possible, and under its auspices perform the work and discharge the duties for which the Mission had been created.

WHY WAS A RULING OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT MADE RETROACTIVE

On Saturday, August 31, 1918, the day following the conference between Judge Moore, Mr. Fosdick, Brother Stevenson, Brother Jamieson, and me (Brother Jamieson, I understood, had been invited to take part in this conference either by Judge Moore or Mr. Fosdick), accompanied by Brother Stevenson, I called at the office of the Democratic Committee and met Brother Jamieson, where we compared our impressions of the previous night's meeting. Brother Jamieson said that he had had another conference with Mr. Fosdick that morning and was convinced that Mr. Fosdick was hostile and would not recede from the position which he had taken in opposition to the departure of the Masonic Mission.

Brother Stevenson suggested that strong political pressure higher up might be of some avail, and I reminded those present what was known to Judge Moore, that a letter had been written to the President, a copy of which had been read to them. It was therefore decided that we should await the President's reply, the opinion having been expressed by Judge Moore that the letter to the President covered the ground, and presented the case clearly, so that if there was any disposition to treat the matter on its merits the case had been fully stated.

I told the brethren that I seemed to make more headway with Mr. Fosdick when I saw him alone than when I met him in the company of others, and that I intended to seek another interview with him in the hope of convincing him that his attitude now was inconsistent with what had gone before and was bound to cause suspicions and breed dissatisfaction, that the fraternity having in good faith accepted the government's word as expressed through him and having relied upon it, had proceeded with considerable publicity to make good its undertaking. We were injured and sorely grieved over what would be regarded as a breach of faith on the part of the government unless patriotic reasons for the government's change of position were given instead of an arbitrary withdrawal of the permit based upon reasons of no great weight.

I again called upon Mr. Fosdick at his office, and again we went over the old ground, and it was not long before I found that Mr. Fosdick seemed to agree with me. He told me that the Secretary of War had not signed the paper to present which to the Secretary of War for his signature he had left our conference the night before, and he expressed himself as glad that he had not obtained that signature, so that the matter was still open. This happened after I had asked him when it was that the government had decided upon the policy of issuing no further permits to civilian organizations to engage in welfare work with our forces overseas. He told me that he had decided to recommend this course after his conference with General Pershing, and that upon his return to America he discussed the point with the Secretary of War, who had agreed with him, and who had further advised him to hold up the Masonic Mission. I pointed out to Mr. Fosdick that this decision had evidently been reached between two and three months after the permit had been given to the Masonic fraternity, and as I interpreted the "policy of the Department," as he expressed it, it was now the intention to give this ruling a retroactive construction, or, in other words, to date it back so as to bring the Masonic fraternity under it, when, as a matter of fact it did not legitimately apply to the application of the Masonic fraternity, which already had been acted upon and disposed of before the new rule came into existence.

I also pointed out to Mr. Fosdick that as I saw it his fear of being inconsistent when called upon to deny, under the new rule, the applications of other organizations seeking to engage in war relief work overseas because passports had been issued to the Masonic fraternity was not well founded, and that he had a complete answer and justification in the facts as they existed, namely, that the Masonic fraternity's application had been acted upon months before the new rule and did not come under it, and that to this no one could take exception because it was a fact and in harmony with justice. To this Mr. Fosdick replied, "I had not seen it clearly in that light. Why, that will let us all out, will it not?" To which I replied, "It seems to me a solution of the difficulty, and one in harmony with the facts. Personally,

I cannot see how any other course can be followed." I added, "If this course is adopted there is no need of the President answering my letter of August 5th."

Turning to Mr. Fosdick as I was about to leave, I asked him why it was that the President had not answered my letter as yet, that it was some weeks since it had been written; to which he replied, "We have it here, and it is a very difficult letter to answer." I rejoined by saying, "Then don't answer it, but do the natural and consistent thing and let us get away. I can assure you that if, when we arrive on the other side, we find that there are obstacles which we cannot overcome to the accomplishment of that which is in our hearts to accomplish, we will return. The Masonic fraternity will accept our verdict, and I think the character of the men appointed on this Mission is such that the government can safely trust them to act patriotically and helpfully once they have learned the situation overseas."

Mr. Fosdick said that he would again go over the matter with the Secretary of War, and he thought that my proposed solution of our problem was a proper one.

Again we parted, I with my hopes high.

Upon my return to New York following my interview with Mr. Fosdick on August 31st, I wrote him on September 2d a letter embodying the points I had made at that interview in order that, having them before him in writing, they should not escape his attention.

This letter follows:

"September 2, 1918.

"Honorable Raymond B. Fosdick,

"Chairman Commission on Training Camp Activities,

"War Department, Washington, D. C.

"My dear Mr. Fosdick:

"Lest the point which I endeavored to make clear in our last interview escape your mind due to the multiplicity of matters you are called upon to consider, I venture to commit it to paper, prompted also so to do by my very earnest desire that the Department should have every assistance that I can give it in our joint effort to reach a just solution of the question we are considering.

"Permit me then to remind you that the consent given the Masonic fraternity to engage in overseas service was

given on April 23rd, 1918, and not very many months after similar consents were given to other civilian organizations. The Masonic fraternity is not making a new application for a new consent, but is relying upon that already given.

"It now seems that in June your department reached the conclusion that it was not wise to multiply agencies overseas engaged in relief work, and since then has declined to issue permits to organizations seeking to enter the overseas field.

"Assuming this decision is wise, why should it be construed retroactively so as to exclude from the field one agency only holding the department's consent, the Masonic fraternity? The Masonic fraternity has acted in good faith. Upon obtaining the consent of your department it presented the matter to its integral and allied parts and started in to, and already has collected large sums of money to carry on its work, all upon the faith of the government's approval of its purpose. Surely it is but normal to expect misgivings and discontent if at this late date the government by an arbitrary retroactive application of its June rule excludes one, and only one agency holding the department's consent to engage in overseas relief work. I do not have to call your attention to the unhappy situation we were in when the Masonic fraternity was excluded from camps and cantonments, albeit another secret society, strictly sectarian in addition, was admitted to them. That, however, has been smoothed over and the Masonic fraternity has forgotten the incident, but I look forward with dread to the situation which will develop if the government now revives that unpleasantness in so conspicuous a way, as will be the revocation of the consent it gave the Masonic fraternity in April. In effect the denial to the Masonic Mission of the passports it needs will be tantamount to such a revocation.

"Seemingly the government can say with propriety to civilian organizations now seeking to engage in relief work overseas that no permits had been granted since the date when the new order of things was decided upon, and should any question ever be raised with reference to the Masonic fraternity's activities the answer is complete that it received its permit at least two months before this new order. I can see no other solution that is logical and in harmony with the theory of our institutions, and fail to see how the Department can justify a retroactive construction of its present rule. Surely so to do will invite the conclusion since the Masonic fraternity alone will be affected that the

present administration is hostile to the Masonic fraternity and not in sympathy with its patriotic desire to serve, a conclusion I cannot accept.

"The issuing of passports to the Masonic Mission enlarged to include Judge Moore and his two assistants, answers the letter of August 5th addressed to the President and puts an end to a difficult situation. I trust our difficulty will be solved that way.

"Very sincerely yours,

"Townsend Scudder.

"Glen Head, L. I., N. Y."

To this letter of September 2d I received no reply, nor even an acknowledgement thereof, which fact prompted me to send a copy of it to the President at a later date, as will appear further on.

JUDGE MOORE SAILS FOR EUROPE

Upon my return to New York, and on September 3, 1918, I wrote Judge Moore as follows:

"September 3, 1918.

"Honorable George Fleming Moore,

"House of the Temple,

"16th Street, Washington, D. C.

"My dear Judge Moore:

"Permit me to thank you for the courtesies extended to me while in Washington, and also enclose a copy of a letter written by me to Mr. Fosdick following up my last interview with him before returning to New York.

"I trust that he will appreciate the wisdom of refraining from withdrawing our permit and thereby again tax the good nature of our fraternity without rhyme or reason. I wish the gentleman was more practical. He seems to be an idealist with theories as to what is best which perhaps do not square in all things with the conditions which have to be met. Such an attitude invites our respect, but it does not solve delicate problems.

"Looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you again, and trusting our interviews may prove successful, believe me

"Sincerely yours,

"Glen Head, L. I., N. Y.

Townsend Scudder."

Judge Moore kept us informed of his progress. On several occasions he expressed the hope that we would see our way clear to sail with him. He sought other meetings with us, which we regretfully could not arrange. He had us advised of his approaching departure and of his address in New York just prior thereto and on October 7, 1918, we received the following letter, written on Cunard Steamship Company paper, advising us that he was actually on his way:

"Sunday, Oct. 6, 1918.

"Dear Judge:

"Have tried to get Kenworthy and you over the phone a number of times.

"We are sailing to Liverpool.

"Paris address, care of American Express Co., Paris, France.

Yours fraternally,

"H. T. Stevenson."

It seems proper to insert a letter received from Brother Stevenson, dated September 5, 1918. Its use in its chronological order was not feasible because it would have broken in upon our narrative. It will be recalled that the only conference with Mr. Fosdick attended by both Judge Moore and me was held on August 30th, and that at this conference it had been decided that Judge Moore should go to Europe on his particular Masonic business, whether or no the Masonic Mission obtained passports from the government, but that up to the time of his departure he would not relax his efforts and would do his best in behalf of the Masonic Mission to obtain its passports so that the fraternity might carry out its overseas program, promising to join us in France and to work with us if we reached there before his return. So Brother Stevenson wrote from Washington, September 5, 1918, as follows:

**"THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE THIRTY-THIRD
DEGREE**

**"A. and A. Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction of
U. S. A.**

"George F. Moore, Sovereign Grand Commander

"Washington City, September 5, 1918.

"Honorable Townsend Scudder,

"Glen Head, N. Y.

"Dear Sir and Brother:

"Just a line to let you know that present indications point to the possibility, yes, probability, that early next week the

difficulties and barriers that have been in the way of the Masonic Mission will be removed.

"The Sovereign Grand Commander will be in New York for the next few days at The Clendening, 103d Street and Amsterdam Avenue, with a few friends. If you wish further light on the subject, I am sure he can give you the latest information up to the time he leaves the city. He will return, I expect, next Monday. Mr. Fosdick has been out of town for several days, and is due to return to his office Monday or Tuesday, and Mr. Jamieson believes that at that time everything will be straightened up satisfactorily to all parties.

"I shall appreciate it if you will kindly return to me the copy of my report with such suggested amendments as you may desire to make in the same.

"With fraternal greetings and best wishes, I remain,

"Sincerely and fraternally yours,

"Hugh T. Stevenson."

The contents of this letter encouraged us in the belief that my final conference with Mr. Fosdick held on August 31st had not been in vain, and that he realized the soundness of our position and the injustice of giving retroactive effect to the War Department's new rule excluding civilian organizations from war service overseas so as to exclude the Masonic fraternity from that service under its permit received from the government April 23, 1918, and at least three months before the new rule was decided upon.

The report to which Brother Stevenson referred, and the return of which he requested, was one covering our negotiations with him in reference to Masonic overseas service. A reading of this report did not satisfy us that Brother Stevenson attached the same relative importance to the various Masonic bodies which we did, and as we were working together as far as the government at Washington was concerned it did not seem worth while to waste energy over non-essentials. Accordingly under date of September 11, 1918, I answered his letter of September 5th as follows:

"September 11, 1918.

"Rev. Hugh T. Stevenson,

"157 U Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

"My dear Mr. Stevenson:

"Yours of September the 5th duly received, and I am returning herewith the copy of the report which you handed

me. I do not feel at liberty to make any suggestions with reference to it, because our viewpoints are quite different and there is no reason why we should attempt to harmonize them. We are seeking a common end, only we go about it differently.

Sincerely yours,

“Townsend Scudder.

“Glen Head, L. I., N. Y.

“Sorry that due to absence from town I could not connect with Judge Moore. Kenworthy tried to make an appointment, but failed.”

SHOULD MASONIC OVERSEAS SERVICE BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF GRAND LODGES OR OF THE SCOTTISH RITE

Brother Stevenson told us that he had been sent by Judge Moore to talk over Masonic overseas service with Brother Kenworthy and with me before the judge knew that a permit to engage in that work had been given our Mission by the chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities of the War Department. It seems that Judge Moore had not read the minutes of the Conference of Grand Masters, a copy of which I had sent to him on August 27th, but this copy he gave to Brother Stevenson to read on his way to New York to meet us. Brother Stevenson left Washington, as he told us, to promote the Scottish Rite's ambition to send representatives abroad and also to invite a member of the New York Committee to accompany the Scottish Rite delegation. Having learned from the minutes of the Conference of Grand Masters that we had the War Department's consent and were thereby in a stronger position than was the Scottish Rite, also that our financial backing and resources exceeded its own, he suggested a joint undertaking in the form of a union of what he called “the higher bodies” and the several Grand Lodges. We, on the other hand, urged that the success of our overseas enterprise was dependent upon the heart of the fraternity being in it, that there was nothing higher in Freemasonry than the Symbolic Lodge, the foundation of it all; and that if the fraternity was to measure to its duty and full re-



Austin H. Scrogin
GRAND MASTER
Illinois



Louis A. Watres
GRAND MASTER
Pennsylvania



Arthur M. Millard
GRAND MASTER
Illinois



MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE



sponsibility, if its conscience was to be satisfied, the head and directing force of the overseas enterprise must be the great body which embraced us all, the Symbolic Lodges acting through the forty-nine Grand Lodges of the United States; that here was the will to serve, and also the ability and the financial means to serve, because therein we are all embraced; that when the forty-nine Grand Jurisdictions undertook a work the entire Masonic membership in the United States was in it and back of it, including all Scottish Rite Masons, whereas when the Scottish Rite acted it represented itself alone and only about ten per cent of our entire membership. For these reasons, we urged that the Scottish Rite work through its lodge affiliations and not as a separate body, and we expressed our conviction that any different course, in the light of the government's attitude towards Freemasonry, would defeat the fraternity's ambition to serve our boys overseas.

We felt that we had won Brother Stevenson over to our viewpoint by the time we parted, he to return to Washington, but further to convince him if that should be necessary, Brother Kenworthy wrote him a letter under date of August 28, 1918, as follows:

"August 28, 1918.

"My dear Brother Stevenson:

"I want you to know what a real pleasure it was for me to meet you Tuesday night and share in your conference with Brother Scudder.

"I am satisfied your talk together will be productive of much good, and will lead in time to a solution of the perplexing problem which has given us all so much concern. When the rank and file of the Craft is troubled, it indicates their keen interest in the very grave question now before the Department. If it represented solely the idea of a few leaders of the Craft to put themselves forward, and perhaps in the way, we would not as a fraternity have to be interested, but every one of the 867 lodges in the state of New York has men 'over there,' as our returns show; in one instance as high as fifty Brethren, and running anywhere from two to a dozen and over throughout the state, and I am satisfied the same splendid record of loyalty will be shown by all of our 49 Jurisdictions.

"It must be so, otherwise this office would not have been

in contact with the hundreds of men we have been called upon to take care of by our Sister Jurisdictions.

"During the past week, for example, forty men have been assigned by us to receive the degrees at the request of different Grand Masters from all over the United States. This has been going on for a year, and we are reading to-day of the valorous service of some of the men we have met, notably in the present great drive our Allies are making supported by the A. E. F.

"These are the men from all of our Jurisdictions whom we want to reach and offer our brotherliness to over there. They are far from home, and as Mr. Fosdick's report intimated, their furlough periods do not allow the home visits enjoyed by the French and English soldiers.

"You know what it has meant, perhaps, in normal times, when you were abroad in a city or country other than England, to find a headquarters where you could read your home papers and hear your own language spoken. I have felt it repeatedly, and will never forget the sense of comfort the association brought to me.

"How much more do our boys need all this and more, too, and how pre-eminently it is our duty to provide for them. Men from over there have told me the boys were clamoring for it, and are only awaiting the day when their hopes will be fulfilled.

"The fraternity does not want to disappoint these men. You know that Masonry inculcates loyalty to state and nation from the 1st° to the 33rd°, and because of this it has been a tremendous factor in meeting the needs of the nation to-day. Our men knew the duty expected of them and they are in the forefront as officers of the army and navy because of their ability, their loyalty, and their sense of duty to God and country.

"May I add just a word more. You are so distinctively representative of the body politic of Masonry, and when I say that I mean its democracy, I do not want to see you obsessed by the idea and general misnomer of the higher bodies.

"There are no bodies higher in Masonry than the body itself, and that is the great aggregation of Symbolic Lodges represented throughout the United States.

"Our statistics show, January 1, 1918, a total of 1,869,645 Masons in the 49 states of the U. S. A.; of this number, 1,002,797 are allied with the Grand Lodges to which the N. M. J. owes allegiance.

"To the Grand Lodges identified with the S. M. J. the total membership is 866,848.

"The Proceedings of the S. M. J., 1914-15, page 399, shows an aggregate membership of the Rite of 84,248, or less than 10 per cent.

"Likewise, in the N. M. J. Proceedings, 1917, page 40, shows a total membership in the Rite of 99,317, or less than 10 per cent.

"We would not belittle our associations with the S. R. because of its numerical limitations, any more than we would exalt ourselves because of the numeral distinction it confers.

"You and I would rather be allied with an army of nearly 2,000,000 men than to be the leaders of a division representing only 10 per cent of the army itself.

"These figures of membership are irrefutable, and probably have not come under your observation before. They are not submitted for any other purpose than to emphasize to you the democracy of the Craft as represented by the ninety rather than the ten per cent., and to impress you, too, with the thought that our aim is to reach out and gratify the hopes and prayers of the nearly two million Masons of the United States for their brethren 'over there.' God bless you and bring success to our efforts.

"Faithfully your Brother,

"Robert Judson Kenworthy."

HOW ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS CAN BE GAINED

In justice to Judge Moore I deem it my duty to call attention to the misapprehension which seems to exist in the minds of some regarding real purposes and objects of his visit abroad which is sometimes so represented as to have it appear that he had gone abroad to engage in war relief work with our forces, having obtained from the government its consent thereto. As an illustration, I quote an extract from *The Scottish Rite News*, Volume VIII, No. 10, dated November, 1918:

"Word has just been received of the safe arrival overseas of Illustrious Brother George F. Moore, 33°, Grand Commander of the Supreme Council; Illustrious Brother Sam P. Cochran, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Texas, and Brother Hugh

T. Stevenson, 32°, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. These three brethren constitute a committee appointed by the Supreme Council for the purpose of visiting France and undertaking the establishment of a special line of war relief work for the benefit of American soldiers, which is not now covered by the activities of the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., and other similar institutions. The committee will also visit the Grand Masonic bodies of the various European countries with a view to reestablishing fraternal relations between those Grand bodies and the Grand Masonic bodies of the United States.

“It is also announced that prior to their departure from the United States, Brother Moore, Brother Cochran and Doctor Stevenson were authorized and appointed to represent the Order of Odd Fellows in any work undertaken under the auspices of the Supreme Council. This additional financial support and coöperation on the part of the Odd Fellows of the United States, lend great importance to the work to be undertaken by the committee, and with the combined efforts of the Scottish Rite Masons and the Odd Fellows splendid results should come from the work to be undertaken.”

While a careful reading of this article shows that the three brothers named constitute a committee appointed by the Supreme Council, it does not say that the government permitted them to go abroad to carry out the objects or the purposes for which they were appointed by the Supreme Council. Doubtless Brother Moore and his colleagues were *constituted* a committee by the Supreme Council to engage in a special line of war relief work, but they did *not* receive the approval of the government to engage in war relief work for the benefit of our soldiers. The article in question does not say that they did, but only implies it, and to that extent is misleading.

A similar error is fallen into by Brother Leon M. Abbott, Grand Master of Massachusetts, who writes as follows: (I quote his letter in full, but that part to which particular attention is directed is italicized.)

“My dear Grand Master:

“Your letter and telegram of recent date were duly received and have been given my very careful consideration. I appreciate the very great interest that you are taking in

the matters to which your letter refers and your real Masonic desire to render practical and effective service. It is self-evident that the two millions of Masons in this country are not doing collectively what they ought to do to advance the interests of their brethren in the service. I have given these matters of assistance to the brethren in the military and naval service a great deal of thought and attention since I have been Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. We have been doing quite a bit to help, but far less than we are able and ought to do. I early adopted the plan of appointing special deputies with each military unit going from Massachusetts and containing members of our fraternity. I also named two or three special deputies in the naval service. These deputies are keeping me in touch with the Masonic situation in the places where they are stationed or located and are commissioned to render relief, to report to me how we or others can best render assistance or relief, and are enjoined to form Masonic clubs whenever it is practical to do so. I am constantly getting reports from these deputies and I am more and more convinced that this plan is a very wise one. It is only now and then that I get a report from a deputy suggesting anything that the Masons of Massachusetts can do to help out on the other side. We are raising a war relief fund to provide for those who may become in need through the war. We have built a theater at Camp Devens and engaged in various other activities at that camp, which is the only one located in Massachusetts.

"We are not in fraternal relation with any of the so-called Grand Lodges of France and this for the reasons set out in detail by my predecessors and also by me upon several occasions in my addresses before the quarterly meetings of our Grand Lodge. I shall be glad to furnish you with full and complete information as to our position relative to the Masonic recognition of any of the Grand Lodges in France if it should prove of special interest to you.

"I attended the Conference of Grand Masters held in New York in May when it was arranged that Judge Scudder and two associates should investigate conditions on the other side and report to each of the Grand Lodge Jurisdictions as to how assistance could best be given. I am also familiar with the situation relating to the holding up of the passports of Judge Scudder and his associates and the consequent inability to carry out the purpose embodied in the resolve adopted at the New York Conference. Perhaps you are not familiar with the inside history of the failure of this

Mission to carry out what it so earnestly desired to do. Perhaps also you have not been informed as to the history leading up to the recent sending across of Brothers Moore, Cochran and Stevenson, representing the Southern Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite. There is much that can be said regarding the sending of this latter delegation and the refusal to let the delegation headed by Judge Scudder carry out their proposed work that can not be properly said on paper. I hope that you are entirely familiar with all the details concerning these Masonic Missions.

"I do not feel that such a conference as you suggest being held within the next thirty days would be productive of such good results as to warrant the holding of such a conference at this time. This conclusion is based upon all the information that has come to me from my own deputies and otherwise and from an intimate participation in the New York Conference and consultation with those who have had to do with dealing with the War Department since that Conference. There are many things that I do not understand and I am earnestly trying to be temperate in thought and expression regarding certain facts which have come to my knowledge.

"I do not believe, my dear Most Worshipful Brother Schoonover, that the time is ripe for such a meeting as you propose, although I hope that you are assured of my hearty sympathy with the purpose you outline. There never has been a time in the history of the Order when such a glorious opportunity has been offered for translating Masonic teachings into living expression.

"With high regard, I am

"Fraternally yours,

"Leon M. Abbott,

"Grand Master."

The portion of Brother Abbott's letter to which particular attention is called is that which conveys the impression that both the Scottish Rite and the Mission representing the Grand Lodges seek to engage in the same kind of war relief work, and that the government granted to the former permission for this purpose and denied it to the latter, when, as a matter of fact, the purpose for which Brother Moore and his associates journeyed across the ocean had nothing whatever akin to the work proposed to be done by the Masonic Mission. (See Brother Moore's statement to Mr. Fosdick on page 136 hereof.)

MR. FOSDICK INTIMATES HE HAS A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION

Returning now to my interview with Mr. Fosdick on the train on which we left Washington on July 26th, let us take up the story of my further dealings with him after that day.

It will be recalled that we parted with the understanding that Secretary Baker and he were to formulate a proposition for Masonic activities overseas, and submit it to me at a conference, of the time and place of which I was to be notified. It will also be recalled that I had suggested the inviting of Judge Moore to this conference for the purpose of satisfying the War Department that Judge Moore's interests and those I represented were in harmony.

Receiving no call to this conference from Mr. Fosdick up to August 2d, I sent on that day the following:

"August 2, 1918.

"Honorable Raymond B. Fosdick,
"Chairman Commission on War Training Camp
Activities,
"War Department, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Fosdick:

"Not having received a telegram or letter from you with reference to my return to Washington to attend the conference which you suggested, I have assumed that it has not been possible to arrange for it. I am just writing to let you know that I am at Glen Head, Long Island, awaiting your summons which I hope will come at an early date. You will appreciate that the uncertainty is disconcerting to all men involved.

"Sincerely yours,

"Townsend Scudder.

"Glen Head, L. I., N. Y."

A telegram from Mr. Fosdick, dated August 6th, was duly received by me as follows:

"WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

"Received at Glen Cove, N. Y.

"20 NYAG 64 Govt

"Nr Washn DC 6 Aug

"Honorable Townsend Scudder

"Glenhead LI NY

"Can you give me any information about meeting of Masons in Cleveland last week and plan that was projected

for work among the troops by the Masonic fraternity. We have no information about matter here but it has been suggested that efforts of New York state delegation might wisely be coördinated with the Cleveland plans.

"Raymond B. Fosdick
"2PM"

To it, on August 7th, I made the following reply :

"August 7, 1918.

"Honorable Raymond B. Fosdick,
"Chairman Commission on Training Camp Activities,
"War Department, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Fosdick:

"Your telegram has been received. The reconstruction and the reëducation of United States soldiers and sailors and Masonic participation therein was a matter submitted by New York at the Conference of Grand Masters held in New York in May, and it was resolved that it be referred back to the several state Masonic Jurisdictions for action, it being urged that each Jurisdiction commit itself to this work as each might determine, more particularly as the matter of reëducation and employment was one pertaining to the states individually where each state would look out for its own.

"The Ohio meeting, extensively advertised in the newspapers, was doubtless made up of Ohio representatives of the fraternity, and I have no doubt were acting on the very matter referred to Ohio as well as to the other states by the meeting of Grand Masters in New York. I reach this conclusion because New York received no notice or invitation to this meeting, which, of course, it would have received had it been something more than a local meeting.

"I have complied with your suggestion that I write to the President. The letter was mailed yesterday, and I assume will be taken up with you in due course. I would gladly send you a copy, but I feel it would not be proper so to do until the President has acted or made the letter public.

"I am more keen than ever for a proper and satisfying solution of the matter of Masonic overseas service. On every side the inference is being drawn that there has been some hostile influence at work and the Masonic fraternity through this influence is being discriminated against. It will be very difficult, I fear, to overcome this impression, which has disturbed and worried me, and makes exceedingly difficult my efforts to satisfy the impatient and hotter heads in the fraternity.

Sincerely yours,

"Townsend Scudder.

"Glen Head, L. I., N. Y."

To the meeting, subject of the foregoing telegram and my letter of August 7th, the following newspaper article from the New York *Globe* of August 1st probably refers:

**MASONS LAUNCH PLAN TO AID DISABLED
VETERANS**

Cleveland, Aug. 1.—The resources of Masonic bodies throughout the world will be used to assist soldiers and sailors disabled on the battlefields of Europe, if a movement launched here last night by representatives of every branch of Masonry wins the approval of the War Department and of the higher Masonic bodies of the country. The meeting formed the War League for Masonic Service.

The efforts of the fraternity would be to assist disabled men to become self-sustaining before, during or after vocational training given them by the government. Tentative plans call for the use of Masonic employment under research bureaus, hospitals and buildings and funds, thus utilizing a complete organization, which would be ready at the first request for help.

Under the plans each of the 3,000,000 Masons in this country will be asked to devote time and effort in the work.

No further word was received from Mr. Fosdick until August 20th, when I received from him this telegram, dated that day:

"WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

"Received at Glen Cove, N. Y.

"36NYAG 31 Govt

"Nr Washn DC Aug 20 1918 130PM

"Judge Townsend Scudder

"Glen Head, LI NY

"Matter proceeding to what I believe will be a satisfactory solution. You will probably hear from us in a few days.

Raymond B. Fosdick."

To this telegram I sent, on August 22d, the following reply:

"August 22, 1918.

"Honorable Raymond B. Fosdick,

"Chairman Commission on Training Camp Activities,

"War Department, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Fosdick:

"Thank you for your telegram. I shall be indeed happy to hear the details of the prospective solution of the problem.

"I appreciate your courtesy.

"Sincerely,

"Townsend Scudder.

"Glen Head, L. I., N. Y."

Eight days later, on August 28th, nothing further having been heard from Mr. Fosdick, I sent him the following letter, a copy of which I sent to Brother Stevenson for Judge Moore:

"August 28, 1918

"Honorable Raymond B. Fosdick,
"Chairman Commission on Training Camp Activities,
"War Department, Washington, D. C.

"My dear Mr. Fosdick:

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram that 'Matter proceeding to what I believe will be a satisfactory solution. You will probably hear from us in a few days.' This news was indeed cheering, the more so because the situation has grown extremely acute and inferences are being drawn and speculations indulged in which are proving disturbing in the extreme.

"In perfect frankness it is my judgment that the safest and best way out will be the issuing of passports to the Masonic Mission, their relief work overseas to be confined to the recreation centers, and trust to the good judgment of the mission to determine whether the Masonic fraternity can render real worth-while service. I can assure you that excepting it can, it will withdraw from the field, and I can further assure you that its judgment that it cannot render such service will be accepted by the fraternity at large and the complications will end.

"When we discussed the Masonic plan of service overseas, I pointed out to you the advantage of our plan in that if the work proved worth-while the scope of the work could be enlarged, and all others desiring to participate could do so either through their workers or with their funds.

"This has been presented to all the Masonic Jurisdictions in the United States, and I can say it is satisfactory to them. In this connection I find that there is no divergence of views between the mission which New York, with the approval of the Masons of the United States, is seeking to send overseas and the work which Judge George Fleming Moore, of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, is contemplating. He, too, is seeking to render effective service, and comes in with us and we with him as one in the common enterprise, and it is my thought because his work will mean a larger enterprise that this will necessitate the enlarging of the mission to cover the two or three men whom he seeks to have accompany him. After all, nine persons are not so many when representing an organization with

two million active members and as many inactive ones. We hardly feel that it is probable that others will want to join the preliminary mission because Judge Moore is the only one who has expressed that wish since all were advised of our undertaking. The others are awaiting the report of the mission and its determination whether the work is worthwhile before setting in motion machinery necessary in connection with the support of the work, and at this point let me emphasize again that what the Masonic fraternity does it pays for itself and does not solicit funds from the public. We will engage in no drives, so from this standpoint will not be a disturbing factor.

"There is on the ground in Washington a gentleman in whom we place confidence and with whom we feel you can talk this matter over to advantage. My reference is to the Rev. Hugh T. Stevenson, 157 U Street, N.W.

"Pardon the length of this letter, but the importance of the matter treated is great, and I have not lost my sense of proportion even in these times, and over and above all things I want to prevent a controversy which is smoldering now because there is a strong sense that an injustice has been done and that governmental favors are being showered on some while even justice is being denied to others not less worthy, and this is an unwholesome condition.

"Sincerely yours,

Townsend Scudder.

"Glen Head, L. I., N. Y."

Following this letter, Brother Stevenson arranged the meeting of August 30th with Mr. Fosdick, the one at which was present Mr. Jamieson, the account of which has been hereinbefore set forth.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. TUMULTY

Unable to determine what was the source of the opposition to Masonic overseas war relief work, and being anxious to get in touch with a practical man whose good judgment I felt could be relied upon and who would have a keen interest in avoiding complications and controversies which were susceptible of being used in a political way, I decided to call upon Mr. Tumulty and give him the story of the Masonic efforts in Washington to secure passports for its overseas mission and of the obstacles and disappointments which we had encountered.

I took advantage of my presence in Washington awaiting the conference with Secretary Baker, which Mr. Fosdick had promised to arrange, to meet Mr. Tumulty and discuss the Masonic enterprise.

I began my story by calling his attention to the original ruling of the Secretary of War which had excluded the Masonic fraternity from camps and cantonments as far as social service therein was concerned, and recalled to his memory the agitation which this ruling had occasioned and our fraternity's final success in smoothing the matter over and closing the incident.

I then told him of my coming to Washington in the early spring to lay before the Committee on Training Camp Activities the Masonic fraternity's plan to render service overseas, and the discussion that I had had with Mr. Fosdick, culminating in his letter approving our plan, bearing date of April 23, 1918. I told him of our return to Washington to take up our passports, of the opposition which for the first time we had met in the passport bureau, and of our subsequent dealings with the Third Assistant Secretary of War, and of my more recent interview with Mr. Fosdick. I added that I was now awaiting word of an appointment to meet Secretary Baker, that I had grave misgivings whether Secretary Baker would appreciate the importance of the Masonic matter, preoccupied as he was by the mass of things that he had to consider, and that I hoped that the question of Masonic activities overseas might reach the President as I felt confident that, with his knowledge of history, his breadth of vision, and sense of justice, he would go into the matter thoroughly, and that whatever decision he reached would be a satisfying one which could be accepted by the fraternity whether it was favorable or unfavorable to us. I again resort to the form of the dialogue. Only the substance, however, of our ensuing conversation is given, but as so given it covers the ground.

Tumulty: "Why do you bring this matter to me?"

Scudder: "Because you are a practical man, Mr. Tumulty, and I flatter myself that I am a practical man. In my efforts with Mr. Fosdick I have felt that I was dealing with an idealist. I have not felt at all that he appreciated how serious the matter was with reference to which we have been negotiating. I think

that he does not grasp the fact that the members of the Masonic fraternity will resent an arbitrary refusal to permit them to serve as other organizations are serving. I think that he does not realize that such a refusal will invite speculation as to its causes. You and I know that there is a rivalry between the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Columbus, and the Knights of Columbus seem able to obtain from the administration anything that they wish in the way of opportunities of service, not only with our forces in Europe, but here in the United States; yet the Masonic fraternity, many times more numerous, hundreds of years older, and fully as zealous to serve, has received scant consideration. I fear that all of this will invite the inference, from these favors shown the Knights of Columbus and the inability of the Masonic fraternity to receive any recognition, that the present administration is hostile to the Masonic fraternity, and that such hostility may be attributed to the close relationship which seems to exist between the administration and the Knights of Columbus."

Tumulty: "What have I to do with all of this?"

Scudder: "I do not know, probably nothing, but you are a practical man and you do see, I am sure, whither this trends."

Tumulty: "If the Knights of Columbus have put any obstacles in the way of the Masonic fraternity's service, it has been done by some little fellow. It never would be countenanced by the men at the top, and the President would never stand for it a moment. Why, suppose the Masons were to ask to investigate my office, I would not oppose it. I would tell them, 'Here are the keys, go through everything.' We cannot afford to have a controversy between the Knights of Columbus and the Masons. I will take you in to see the President and you can go over it with him. I know he will not stand for an injustice. I do not believe that the Knights of Columbus are responsible for your troubles, for such action would be the height of folly on their part."

Scudder: "I hardly feel that I can present the matter to the President properly by word of mouth, and I also feel that whatever decision the President may reach should come to the public in his own words and not through my interpretation of them."

Tumulty: "Then write the story out just as you have told it to me, but as briefly as possible. I will see that the President reads it. You can rely upon me to do the best I can to get the matter straightened out, and if there is anything which you see that I can do, let me know."

Scudder: "I told Mr. Fosdick when he spoke of enmity existing between the Masons and the Knights of Columbus and said that there was fighting enough on the other side without sending over more discordant elements, that I had no doubt that the leaders of the Knights of Columbus would urge him to let the Masonic Mission sail were I to lay the facts before them."

Tumulty: "I have no doubt they would. I will speak to Mr. Flaherty about it."

Mr. James A. Flaherty is the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus. Evidently he was spoken to by Mr. Tumulty, and evidently he recognized the propriety and desirability of having the Masons carry out their overseas program, because at an interview with Mr. Fosdick after my conversation with Mr. Tumulty, Mr. Fosdick told me that Mr. Flaherty, as I understood him, had called upon him and had urged him to permit the Masonic Mission to sail.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Having framed my letter to the President with the view to obtaining his decision upon the application of the Masonic fraternity for permission for its overseas mission to go abroad, I wrote a letter, dated August 5, 1918, to Mr. Tumulty, set forth below, enclosing that to the President:

"August 5, 1918.

"Honorable Joseph P. Tumulty,
 "Secretary to the President of the United States,
 "Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Tumulty:

"I am sending herewith enclosed in harmony with your suggestion a letter to the President dealing with the question of Masonic overseas relief work. I regret the letter is so long, but found it difficult to shorten it and present the

case adequately. I appreciate that you realize the importance of a satisfying solution of the matter and a setting at rest of the speculation now going on over the country as to why the situation is as it is.

"Thanking you for your courtesy, I am,

"Very sincerely yours,

"Townsend Scudder."

I received from Mr. Tumulty the following, dated August 8th:

"The White House,

Washington, August 8, 1918.

"Personal.

"My dear Judge Scudder:

"I have your letter of August 5th, and shall bring the enclosure to the attention of the President. I shall be glad to do all I can to help in this matter.

"Mr. Fosdick's letter is herewith returned.

"Sincerely yours, J. P. Tumulty,

"Secretary to the President,

"Hon. Townsend Scudder,

"Supreme Court of New York, Brooklyn, N. Y."

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

"August 5, 1918.

"To His Excellency,

"The President of the United States of America,

"The White House, Washington, D. C.

"The President:

"The appeals of the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, and others affirm the great need of money and of workers to cheer, comfort and sustain our boys overseas as some substitute for home leave denied them by distance. It is urged that this service is necessary to the morale of our men. The Masonic fraternity is ready, willing and able to do its share of this work in the city recreation centers abroad, but finds its way blocked because it is not a 'recognized relief organization.'

"The prerequisites to such recognition by the government have not been disclosed to us. Already there are with our colors fully 100,000 Masons, a number greater than the entire membership of other fraternities permitted to engage in the work denied to Freemasonry. It has an equal number of sons of Masons in the service.

"From these, and from its membership at home, there is an insistent demand that our Order take its place overseas beside the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, and the others engaged in cheer and comfort work.

"The fraternity is perturbed over its inability to meet this demand of its own people, perturbed over its inability to give to its members satisfying reasons why the government, after approving Masonic participation in the relief work overseas, withholds the passports without which the Masonic Mission cannot sail.

"Masonry seeks to be efficient and helpful; it would not engage knowingly in an inconsequential work; it has accepted as worth-while the overseas service of civilian organizations like the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Moose, because of their drives to raise funds with which to carry on their work have not been curbed, because the government seemingly deems them 'recognized relief organizations.'

"Masonry modestly but confidently invites a review of its service to humanity not only in the past, but also since this terrible war was forced upon us, as a test of the justice of its claim to equal recognition as a 'relief organization.'

"The public is told by the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, and others, to stimulate the flow of money to their coffers, that all these organizations can do is small in comparison with what needs to be done to maintain the morale of our boys overseas. Then why should the two million Masons in the United States be denied permission to take direct part in this overseas service, more particularly since the funds Masonry devotes to social service and charitable uses come from the fraternity and not the public?

"Masonry has no quarrel with any organization serving overseas; to their funds it has contributed freely, but it does not understand its exclusion from such service.

"It is humiliating to the oldest, richest, and numerically the strongest brotherhood, for ages renowned for its charity and its work of uplift, to be denied permission to work overseas for the benefit of our sailors and soldiers alongside of the Moose, the Knights of Columbus and the Young Men's Christian Association for no other assigned reason than that the Masonic order is not in the view of the United States government a 'recognized relief organization.'

"I take the liberty of enclosing a letter received by me from Raymond B. Fosdick, Chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, promising the support of the War Department in our projected overseas Masonic relief work. It is in view of this letter that the Masonic fraternity is at a loss to understand the refusal of the government to

permit the Masonic order to engage in this projected relief work.

"The Masonic fraternity seeks through you, Mr. President, the recognition to which it believes it is entitled to enable it to join in overseas service.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"Townsend Scudder."

No reply was received from the President until over seven weeks had elapsed from the time my letter was mailed. During this period we were negotiating with the Y. M. C. A., and also holding interviews, and corresponding, with Mr. Fosdick.

At one of my interviews with the latter, I remarked that the President was taking a long time to give us his decision, and that we had expected an earlier answer to our letter. To this Mr. Fosdick replied that the President had given our letter to the War Department for the draft of a reply, and that it was a very difficult letter to answer.

Thereafter I received the reply of the President, dated September 25th.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

"The White House,

"Washington, September 25, 1918.

"My dear Justice Scudder:

"I have delayed answering your thoughtful letter of August 5th so that I might have time to consult with my colleagues in the War Department and give the question which you raise my own careful consideration.

"The offer of the Masonic order to bear its share in the work which is being done for the troops overseas is not only in accord with the splendid loyalty with which the country is supporting the war, but it is in line with its own generous traditions as a fraternity. My first inclination would therefore be to accept at once an offer conceived in so fine a spirit of service. However, there are considerations of a military character which have to be taken into account in passing upon a matter of this kind.

"I find that General Pershing has repeatedly asked the War Department to limit as far as possible the number of private agencies serving with the American Expeditionary Forces. The reasons are not difficult to discover. In the movement of troops from point to point, either along the front or in the rear, such considerations as transportation, the congestion of roads and knowledge of the movements

of troops, make it necessary to limit not only the number of non-combatant personnel, but the number of non-military organizations that have independent contact with the army. These and other factors affect in similar fashion the situation in the training and rest areas where more static conditions prevail.

"I am sure you will agree with me that General Pershing's judgment on these matters ought to be respected. Up to the present time the War Department has authorized for overseas service, in addition to the Red Cross, only the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Jewish Welfare Board and the Salvation Army. The Knights of Columbus have been recognized not as a fraternity, but as sustaining the same relationship to the Catholic church which the Y. M. C. A. bears to Protestantism. No other organizations have been authorized, and I believe that the judgment of the War Department in declining to add to the number of these agencies overseas is sound. Mr. Fosdick's letter of endorsement, to which you call my attention, was written last April, before the policy of the American Expeditionary Forces on this matter was fully understood by the War Department.

"I have written you somewhat at length because I am anxious that you and the great fraternity which you represent should realize that the inability of the government to accept your generous proffer of service in the way you indicate is not due to any lack of appreciation. Permit me to express my own personal thanks for your offer and for the fine spirit behind it.

"Cordially and sincerely yours,

"Woodrow Wilson.

"Honorable Townsend Scudder,

"Justices' Chambers,

"Supreme Court of the State of New York,

Brooklyn, N. Y."

The foregoing letter of the President crossed, in the mail, one of mine, dated September 24th, to Mr. Tumulty, as follows:

"September 24, 1918.

"Honorable Joseph P. Tumulty,

"Secretary to the President,

"Washington, D. C.

"My dear Mr. Tumulty:

"Appreciating the multiplicity of things pressing upon you, I hesitate to add to your burden but find myself embarrassed by my inability to explain the failure to receive

a reply to my letter of August 5th addressed to the President upon the subject of Masonic service in large recreation centers overseas.

"I was informed that this letter had been sent to the War Department, and perhaps has been overlooked there. It is this thought which prompts me to write now. I will be appreciative if the matter can be taken up and disposed of, and if my presence in Washington can assist, I can come upon the shortest notice.

"Sincerely yours,

"Townsend Scudder.

"Glen Head, L. I., N. Y."

To this letter I received the following acknowledgment:

"The White House,

"Washington, 26 September, 1918.

"Dear Justice Scudder:

"Before the receipt of your letter, the President had already made reply to your letter of the 5th of August. The reason for delay arose out of the fact that the President was in consultation with the War Department and the Bureau of War Training Activities.

"Sincerely yours,

"J. P. Tumulty,

Secretary to the President.

"Hon. Townsend Scudder,

"Glen Head, L. I."

The President's letter of September the 25th having put an end to our hopes of serving independently overseas, our negotiations with the Y. M. C. A. were pushed more vigorously in the hope of reaching a working agreement with it whereby we might take over some feature or features of its work. This work would be conducted under the Y. M. C. A. emblem alone, but within the premises there would be a tablet upon which would be inscribed words to the effect that "This Hut is supported by moneys contributed by the Masonic fraternity of the United States." The Y. M. C. A. said that, as far as was practicable, their secretaries in charge of such huts should be Masons, and in doing this there would be little difficulty, inasmuch as of the Y. M. C. A. secretaries serving abroad about half of the total number, among them some of their most efficient men, were Masons.

We also emphatically stated to the Y. M. C. A. officials that there was not the slightest intention on the part of the Masons

that there should be in such huts, nor would there be, any conferring of Masonic degrees, or other activities peculiar to Freemasonry as a secret society.

A statement to this same effect had been made by us to Mr. Fosdick before he granted us the permit of April 23, 1918, and the same fact had been made clear to Mr. Keppel and to Mr. Tumulty in our interviews with them after the hold-up in the passport bureau. Although supported by moneys contributed by the Masonic fraternity, the facilities offered were to be open to all men in the service, as has ever been our purpose from the time when we made our first appeal to Washington for permission.

We accordingly sought further interviews with officials of the Y. M. C. A. and began a discussion of the practical workings of our plan invited by the letter of Dr. Watson, dated September 24, 1918, and appearing on page 89 of this report. The head officials of the Y. M. C. A. with whom we were dealing were busy men, whose duties often compelled absence from New York, with the result that there were delays in getting together. Time ran along and we were soon in the midst of the fall political campaign. As Freemasonry does not concern itself with politics, we were very cautious during the campaign, lest the refusal of the administration to permit our fraternity to carry out the plans which it had formulated upon receiving the War Department's consent to engage in overseas relief work, if it became publicly known, be injected into the campaign in some form or other, and made a political issue.

The campaign over, the drive in the interest of the United War Work Campaign began, and again we were embarrassed lest the refusal of the government to permit Masonic service overseas should, by becoming public, in some way lessen the enthusiasm of people who otherwise might have contributed more liberally to the war work service.

Up to this time the President's declination of our offer of service abroad had not been imparted by Judge Scudder, recipient of the President's letter, to more than half a dozen persons in the United States, and these are Masons who received this information under the seal of strict secrecy.

On November 11, 1918, however, the armistice was signed, and from our viewpoint the objections raised by the President in his letter of September 25th, even if sound on that date, which we did not feel them to be, were no longer so, now that the great war was over in fact, if not theoretically. Accordingly we framed another letter to the President, which we forwarded to him enclosed in the following letter, dated November 11th, addressed to Mr. Joseph P. Tumulty, the Secretary to the President, thus again availing ourselves of Mr. Tumulty's offer in his letter of August 8th, in which he said: "I shall be glad to do all I can to help in this matter."

"November 11, 1918.

"Honorable Joseph P. Tumulty,

"Secretary to the President of the United States,

"Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Tumulty:

"May I again solicit your good offices and request you to present to the President the letter which I herewith enclose?

"Perhaps you have noticed that no public mention has been made of the contents of the President's letter to me dated September 25, 1918. This is due to the fact that I have considered the matter as still pending, and in this I have felt justified because it seemed to me the situation changed shortly after the President wrote, and that it would be but a little time before it would not be improper again to address him upon this same subject. I admit also that I was fearful that some men who had given this subject only superficial consideration, might take the matter up and seek to make of it a political issue, and I also feared that a few might be influenced by it in a way to affect, even if only very slightly, the campaign under way to raise money for war relief work.

"I am hoping that now, in light of the changed conditions, the President will be able to see the matter our way, and I also hope that his decision may be reached and communicated to me before I leave for the West on November the 22nd to present my report to a Conference of Grand Masters of Masons of all the states in the Union. Needless to say, it is my earnest hope that the report may be a satisfying one.

"Thanking you for your courtesy, believe me,

"Sincerely yours,

"Townsend Scudder."

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

The following is the letter, dated also November 11th, addressed to the President and enclosed in that to Mr. Tumulty of even date:

"November 11, 1918.

"The President:

"Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your kindly letter of September 25th, and to thank you on behalf of the Masonic fraternity for your expressions of appreciation of the offer of our brotherhood to bear its share in the work which is being done for the troops overseas. Failure to make an earlier acknowledgment was due in part to the belief that events abroad soon would work changes which would justify the government in issuing passports to the Masonic mission so that the fraternity could respond to the incessant and increasing appeals for its ministrations overseas, and in part to the fear that the reasons for the government's refusal to permit the fraternity to serve overseas, if not fully understood, might add to the difficulties of the complicated situation of our country at a time when a successful emergence from that situation demanded sympathetic confidence and unity, and so we have hoped to keep the matter an open one as long as possible.

"Loyal citizens, anxious most of all to aid in the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion and to press upon the administration nothing which could in the slightest degree embarrass it, we bowed to the decision declining to grant us permission to engage in overseas relief work, hoping and believing that this privilege would be accorded us when conditions changed through the defeat of the enemy. Today that defeat is accomplished. American statesmanship, personified in your leadership, and American arms, in the valor and sacrifices of our men and women, have done their full share in producing this righteous result. Quite naturally our thoughts turn now to the world's reconstruction and to the part in it to be taken by our boys overseas, and feeling that they need our help now more than ever, we again turn to you and ask that the Masonic fraternity be permitted, by activities abroad, to share in the work of bringing cheer to our boys who, now that their main fighting work perhaps is over, will be eager to return to those they left at home, and to whom the hours will be long and dreary in their policing work. The Masonic fraternity can be of help to them.

"We venture to suggest that most of the reasons advanced in your letter of September 25th seem hardly applicable to the situation as it now is. We assure you also that if the Masonic fraternity is permitted to engage in this overseas service it will confine its activities to the recreation centers, unless the military authorities invite it to serve elsewhere.

"We feel justified in addressing you again in this matter because of its great importance in the eyes of upward of two million Masons in our country, and because of the changed conditions overseas. We do not want to impertune you, but it happens that very soon a report will have to be made to our Masonic Jurisdictions in the United States on the efforts made in behalf of our fraternity to obtain governmental consent to its engaging in overseas service, and of the result of those efforts.

"Conscious of the disappointment and sorrow this report will cause if made of the situation as it now is and without this final appeal and your decision thereon, I respectfully submit anew the prayer of the Masonic fraternity for permission to serve and minister to our boys overseas, and ask that, in considering it, you read also the letter written by me to Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick under date of September 2, 1918, a copy of which I take the liberty of enclosing.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
"Townsend Scudder."

Accompanying the foregoing letter to the President was a copy of our letter of September 2d, addressed to Mr. Fosdick.

This was so sent to the President because, in the first place, it had not been acknowledged, much less answered, by Mr. Fosdick, and, in the second, because it set forth our views of the logically untenable position of the government in our matter, and should, we thought, be before the President when he framed his answer.

COPY

"September 2, 1918.

"Honorable Raymond B. Fosdick,

"Chairman Commission on Training Camp Activities,

"War Department, Washington, D. C.

"My dear Mr. Fosdick:

"Lest the point which I endeavored to make clear in our last interview escape your mind due to the multiplicity of matters you are called upon to consider, I venture to commit it to paper, prompted also so to do by my very earnest desire that the Department should have every assistance that I can give it in our joint effort to reach a just solution of the question we are considering.

"Permit me then to remind you that the consent given the Masonic fraternity to engage in overseas service was given on April 23, 1918, and not very many months after similar consents were given to other civilian organizations. The Masonic fraternity is not making a new application for a new consent, but is relying upon that already given.

It now seems that in June your Department reached the conclusion that it was not wise to multiply agencies overseas engaged in relief work, and since then has declined to issue permits to organizations seeking to enter the overseas field.

"Assuming this decision is wise, why should it be construed retroactively so as to exclude from the field one agency only holding the Department's consent, the Masonic fraternity? The Masonic fraternity has acted in good faith. Upon obtaining the consent of your Department it presented the matter to its integral and allied parts and started in to, and already has collected large sums of money to carry on its work, all upon the faith of the government's approval of its purpose. Surely it is but normal to expect misgivings and discontent if at this late date the government by an arbitrary retroactive application of its June rule excludes one, and only one, agency holding the Department's consent to engage in overseas relief work. I do not have to call your attention to the unhappy situation we were in when the Masonic fraternity was excluded from camps and cantonments, albeit another secret society, strictly sectarian in addition, was admitted to them. That, however, has been smoothed over and the Masonic fraternity has forgotten the incident; but I look forward with dread to the situation which will develop if the government now revives that unpleasantness in so conspicuous a way, as will be the revocation of the consent it gave the Masonic fraternity in April. In effect, the denial to the Masonic Mission of the passports it needs will be tantamount to such a revocation.

Seemingly the government can say with propriety to civilian organizations now seeking to engage in relief work overseas that no permits had been granted since the date when the new order of things was decided upon, and should any question ever be raised with reference to the Masonic fraternity's activities the answer is complete that it received its permit at least two months before this new order. I can see no other solution that is logical and in harmony with the theory of our institutions, and fail to see how the Department can justify a retroactive construction of its

present rule. Surely so to do will invite the conclusion, since the Masonic fraternity alone will be affected, that the present administration is hostile to the Masonic fraternity and not in sympathy with its patriotic desire to serve, a conclusion I cannot accept.

"The issuing of passports to the Masonic Mission enlarged to include Judge Moore and his two assistants, answers the letter of August 5th, addressed to the President and puts an end to a difficult situation. I trust our difficulty will be solved that way.

"Very sincerely yours,

"(Signed) Townsend Scudder.

"Glen Head, L. I., N. Y."

The answer of the President was dated November 20th, the envelope containing it was postmarked Washington, November 25th, and came into my hands after I reached home from the Iowa Grand Masters' Conference.

THE PRESIDENT'S SECOND LETTER

"The White House,

"Washington, 20 November, 1918.

"My dear Judge Scudder:

"I have given earnest consideration to your letter of November 11th, and have been glad to seek advice on the matter from Secretary Baker and his aides. I am sorry to have to inform you that even under the changed conditions in France it would be inadvisable to add to the number of non-military organizations serving with the American Expeditionary Forces. As I told you in my former letter, five organizations — the Red Cross, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Jewish Welfare Board, and the Salvation Army — representing the generosity and loyalty of the American people, have been directly recognized for service with the troops overseas. In addition, the American Library Association and the Young Women's Christian Association have placed their special facilities at the disposal of the organizations above mentioned. Everything that money and brains can provide is being done for our troops abroad. Indeed, the American Army is distinguished by the attention that is given to matters of comfort and recreation.

"To General Pershing and his associates, therefore, as well as to the officials in this country who have intimately studied the conditions overseas, there appears to be no legitimate reason for adding to this work, and the confusion and extra burden upon the military authorities which would

be created by the necessity of arranging for the separate personnel and relationships of new organizations seem to furnish excellent reasons for limiting these societies to their present number. If it were merely a matter of adding one more agency to those already in the service, I am confident accommodations might be made. I am informed, however, by the War Department that within the last three months it has been necessary to decline the applications of eight organizations to work with the American Expeditionary Forces overseas. It would be impossible to make an exception in the case of the Masons without accepting the offers of the eight other societies, with obviously unhappy consequences.

"As I told you in my letter of September 25th, it is always difficult to seem to refuse an offer that is conceived in so fine a spirit of service as is shown in your thoughtful and generous letter to me of November 11th. I am confident, however, that you will concur with the position which we have been obliged to take and will see in it only an endeavor on the part of the War Department and the government to support General Pershing in the difficult tasks which confront him.

"Again let me assure you of my warm personal appreciation of the generous offer of the Masonic fraternity.

"Cordially and sincerely yours,

"Woodrow Wilson.

"Honorable Townsend Scudder,

"Supreme Court, State of New York,

"Mineola, N. Y."

ARGUMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S LETTERS

The question of the participation of the Masonic fraternity in overseas war relief work having passed through many official hands and bureaus until it at last reaches the President of the United States, the final arbiter in governmental matters, it is both logical and proper that to his decision we shall all look for the reasons actuating him in his refusal to indorse our request for permission to engage in independent service as desired.

These reasons are set forth in his letter of September 25, 1918. They are:

Requests of General Pershing to the government of the United States to limit *as far as possible* the number of private agencies serving with the American Expeditionary Forces, and reasons for such requests, to-wit:

Considerations of (1) transport of troops, (2) congestion of roads, (3) knowledge of movement of troops.

Justice and fair dealing require that the permission granted us be not revoked unless good and sufficient reasons be advanced for such action.

For these reasons we must revert to the President's letter of September 25th.

Let us first note that the requests of General Pershing were to limit "*as far as possible*" the number of private agencies. This must be construed as limiting as far as possible, not in the sense of the power of the government to refuse any and all applications, which power is, of course, absolute, but to its refusal *provided* that the calls from abroad for service were not so urgent as to make a refusal of an offer of service which would meet a real and widespread demand disheartening both to the large number of soldiers calling for such service, and also to the nearly 2,000,000 active Masons eager and able to supply the need.

The Department had already committed itself to the position that there was plenty of room for our activities.

This, then, brings us to the reasons for General Pershing's requests.

(1) Can it for a moment be urged by reasonable men that twenty-five, or, at the most, fifty Masons going to leaveareas would too greatly strain the transport facilities carrying hundreds of thousands?

And, as we clearly and emphatically pointed out that, inasmuch as we would not be engaged in canteen work, there would be no question of a great quantity of supplies destined for us, surely the shipment of leading newspapers and periodicals from the United States cannot overstrain these transport facilities.

(2) As our activities, once we had reached the several leaveareas, would be confined to them, the "congestion of roads" would be affected by us not at all.

(3) As to the movements of troops, this means, if anything,

that the presence of our Masonic brethren might add to the number of spies seeking to report to Germany on these vital matters. If, however, the government could, as it did, countenance the securing in the United States by *advertisement* hundreds of secretaries for the Young Men's Christian Association and the Knights of Columbus and permit their departure for France, surely they could, with no less safety and propriety, have permitted the sailing of fifty Masons, volunteers, with records unimpeachable and open to inspection, and who would be men picked for their ability, patriotism, and discretion from the ranks of a fraternity for ages renowned for its devoted loyalty.

In the President's letter of September 25th he states that up to that time the War Department had authorized for overseas service, in addition to the Red Cross, only the Y. M. C. A., the K. of C., the Jewish Welfare Board, and the Salvation Army. Yet in Mr. Fosdick's letter to the Secretary of State dated May 6, 1918, he says: "We have already approved the issuance of passports to two other fraternal organizations, and I am sincerely hopeful that no objection will be interposed in the case of Judge Scudder's Commission."

To what fraternal organizations does he refer? The Masonic fraternity was not one of these. Why was it discriminated against?

Lastly, the President says that Mr. Fosdick's letter of endorsement was written before the policy of the American Expeditionary Forces in this matter was fully understood by the War Department.

The military reasons adduced for General Pershing's requests to keep civilian organizations out of France have been analyzed and answered.

Remains, then, one point, *viz.*, that the government, having ruled against permitting to go abroad any organization save those enumerated in the President's letter of September 25th, no permission could be granted to the Masonic fraternity not granted to other applicants.

The vice inherent in this argument lies in the fact that the permission granted the Masonic fraternity *had already been given before* the formulating of the Department's policy. On

the Department's own showing there was more need for service than means for filling it. Were complaint made by any organization other than ours that permission not granted to it had been issued to the Masonic fraternity, the answer is conclusive that the Masonic fraternity, by its application earlier made, had been accorded permission to proceed overseas *before* the Department's later ruling, whereas such other organization had lodged its application *after* it.

The force of this argument was recognized by Mr. Fosdick when, in his interview with Judge Scudder on August 31, 1918, he said, touching this argument, "I had not seen it clearly in that light. Why, that will let us all out, will it not?"

If, however, this did "let all out" and opened the way to *granting our passports*, what becomes of the ground of refusal, the Department's ruling, later again advanced as reason for *refusing* passports? Consider Mr. Fosdick's own telegram, dated *August 20th*, to Judge Scudder: "Matters proceeding to what I believe will be a satisfactory solution." Satisfactory to *us* it could be, as he well knew, only if it ended in the granting of the passports, so that his telegram must be taken to mean that he believed our desired aim was about to be achieved. If so, what, we again ask, becomes of the famous ruling? And what changed Mr. Fosdick's views again later? Certainly, it looks as if this ruling were to be invoked or ignored as might suit the exigencies of the occasion.

This ruling, therefore, seems to us to be fully disposed of as a sound reason for holding up the Masonic Mission, and we are brought back to the *military reasons as affecting the Masonic Fraternity's offer of service*. If these reasons be sound and incontrovertible, there is nothing more to be said. If, however, they are *not*, as in our opinion heretofore set out, properly applicable to us, permit should issue to our Mission pursuant to the promise of April, because of our unique position of priority of application as stated.

The President's second letter, dated November 20th, again declining to grant us the desired passports, even though *at the time when it was penned* the armistice had been signed and the war virtually terminated, discloses *no new facts* upon which to

base such refusal, but only conclusions. It furthermore states that within three months prior to the date of the letter, that is, *after* August 20th, the War Department had declined the applications of eight organizations to work with the American Forces overseas, and, consequently, could not "make an exception in the case of the Masons without accepting the offers of the eight other societies," thus again entirely ignoring the fact, so often urged upon the authorities at Washington, that the permission *had already been granted* to the Masonic fraternity in April, *prior* to the much-invoked ruling of the Department, whereas the eight societies mentioned had lodged *their* applications long *after* such ruling had been made.

Thus was the argument contained in our letter of September 2d, addressed to Mr. Fosdick, of which a copy, as stated, was sent to the President, ignored by him even as it was ignored by Mr. Fosdick.

The names of two other organizations, the American Library Association and the Y. W. C. A. are in the President's letter of November 20th for the first time mentioned as participating in war relief work for the benefit of the American Expeditionary Forces. We are happy in the thought of our soldiers and sailors receiving the benefit of their facilities. But how were these societies able to go abroad? How did they receive their passports in the face of the celebrated ruling, so often invoked as reason for refusing passports to the Masonic fraternity to go overseas? They are not mentioned in the President's letter of September 25th. If they were admitted to participation before that date, why were they not enumerated? If after it, where, again, was the ruling which excluded the Craft?

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion drawn by your Mission is that the Masonic fraternity's efforts to engage independently in overseas war relief work were secretly opposed and thwarted by influences hostile to us.

What these influences are is unknown to us. Conclusions on

this point of identity, deducted from the facts set forth in this our report, can be drawn at will by our readers.

All of which is respectfully and fraternally submitted.

Dated, December 31, 1918.

TOWNSEND SCUDDER,
Chairman, Masonic Overseas Mission
ERASTUS C. KNIGHT,
WILLIAM C. PRIME,
OSCAR F. R. TREDER,
ROUGIER THORNE,
Of the Mission

ENDORSEMENT OF THE MASONIC MISSION'S EFFORTS BY THE MASONIC FRATERNITY IN THE UNITED STATES

The foregoing report was first made orally, including the reading of the government correspondence except the President's letter of November 20th, at the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in the United States, held at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on November 26, 27, and 28, 1918, and the following resolution was thereupon unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT A CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS IN THE UNITED STATES, HELD AT CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, ON NOVEMBER 26, 27, AND 28, 1918:

Whereas, At the meeting of the Grand Masters held in the City of New York on May 9, 1918, the request was made that the Mission appointed by the Grand Master of Masons in the state of New York, to go overseas and engage in war relief work for the benefit of the boys with the colors; likewise undertake in this work to represent the Sister Jurisdictions attending that Conference, assenting thereto and joining in said request; and

Whereas, Thereafter said Mission began negotiations with the governmental authorities at Washington, D. C., having for its object and purpose the accomplishment of the will of the fraternity to engage in overseas work for the benefit of our soldiers and sailors; and

Whereas, A report has been made to this meeting of

Grand Masters by Past Grand Master Townsend Scudder of the efforts made by said committee or Mission to carry out the will of the Masonic fraternity in the United States in the matter of its engaging in war service and relief work; now, therefore, be it

“Resolved, First, that the report of the aforesaid Mission, presented to this conference of Grand Masters, be, and the same is hereby ratified, adopted and approved; be it further

“Resolved, That just so soon as the aforesaid report is completed by the closing of the transaction so far as the government is concerned, through the receipt of the reply of the President to the letter of November 11, 1918, referred to in said report, that said report be then printed and a copy thereof forwarded to each of the Jurisdictions accepting and adopting the same, including those Jurisdictions who have already signified their approval of this work; be it further

“Resolved, That the thanks of this body of Grand Masters be tendered to Past Grand Master Scudder, and his associates, for the able and conscientious manner in which they have conducted the work entrusted to their care; for the report made by Past Grand Master Scudder, and for his devotion to the cause which we all represent.”

There having been reviewed before the Grand Masters' Conference in Iowa the negotiations with the Y. M. C. A., culminating in the proposal of coöperation contained in the letter, dated September 24, 1918, of Mr. C. R. Watson, speaking for the Y. M. C. A., which letter is given in full in the foregoing Report, the following resolution appointing Past Grand Master Townsend Scudder the agent and Commissioner of said Conference and participating Grand Jurisdictions in carrying out such overseas service as might thereafter be undertaken, was unanimously adopted:

“Be It Resolved, That Brother Townsend Scudder, Past Grand Master of New York, and the Chairman of the Commissioners appointed by the Grand Master of New York to undertake the overseas work among the soldiers and sailors of the American Expeditionary Force, be, and he is hereby, appointed and designated as the agent and commissioner of the Conference and the Grand Jurisdictions here represented, and those which may hereafter adopt the Constitution of the Masonic Service Association of the United States, to take charge of the overseas work contemplated and embodied in the Constitution this day adopted.”



MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE

FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE Y. M. C. A.

It will be recalled at this point that, coincidentally with our negotiations with the government, we had been conferring and corresponding with the Y. M. C. A. with the view to making our Masonic fraternity's labors more efficient through mutual coöperation, beginning with an interview on April 26, 1918, at the Y. M. C. A. headquarters in New York (see page 87 of this Report), followed by our letter, dated April 27th, to Mr. C. V. Hibbard. The reply thereto finally accepting our offer of coöperation was contained in a letter of Mr. C. R. Watson, dated September 24, 1918, hereinbefore set forth in full.

The tone of the President's letters having convinced us that it would be useless to urge further our cause with the governmental authorities, the course for us to pursue which, it seemed to us, would lead most speedily to our desired goal, was thought to be that of continuing our negotiations with the Y. M. C. A. in the effort to reach a working agreement with it at the earliest possible moment. Mr. Fosdick, too, had more than once suggested that we connect with one of the agencies recognized by the government and already engaged in overseas war relief work.

At the interview of April 26th our offer to serve in coöperation with the Y. M. C. A. was not received with either the enthusiasm or encouragement looked for by us. At that time the thought had not entered our minds that the government would seek to tie our hands after granting us permission to serve overseas. When, however, we began to encounter obstacles in Washington, and when it was suggested to us that the government's subsequent opposition was to us as an independent war relief agency and was not because of objection either to the personnel of our Mission or to the Masonic fraternity as a whole, we sought with the Y. M. C. A. a union which would place our work under its auspices, direction, and control, stipulating, however, in respect to such features of the Association's work as we might take over that the secretaries who should conduct them be, as far as possible, Masons, and that, in the furtherance of the work, the Y. M. C. A. would consult with our Mission in an advisory capacity. To the Masonic personnel the Y. M. C. A. made no objection, and frankly admitted that perhaps half of the Asso-

ciation's secretaries, and many of its most efficient men serving in such capacity abroad were Masons. They, nevertheless, hesitated to accord us the privilege of having the Masonic name identified with the work, notwithstanding the fact that it would be exclusively supported by money contributed by the Masonic fraternity, alleging as reasons for such hesitancy difficulties in the matter of bookkeeping and the fear that too many other organizations might seek to serve in a similar manner, thus dislocating their system and perhaps rendering it inefficient. We succeeded, nevertheless, in finally winning the objectors over to our point of view, with the result that the members of our Mission have been accepted as secretaries by the Y. M. C. A., after having passed all the tests and complied with all the rules laid down as conditions precedent to becoming secretaries, and at this time, December 31, 1918, the applications for passports have gone to Washington, where they await action. As soon as these are received, the Mission, under Y. M. C. A. control and regulation, will sail for Europe to organize the work assigned to it.

Three of the original members of the Mission, Brothers Knight, Treder, and Thorne being now unable to leave home, Brothers Thomas Channing Moore, George S. Goodrich, and Merwin W. Lay have taken their places.

All of which is respectfully and fraternally submitted.

Dated December 31, 1918.

TOWNSEND SCUDDER,
Chairman, Masonic Overseas Mission
 WILLIAM C. PRIME,
 THOMAS CHANNING MOORE,
 GEORGE S. GOODRICH,
 MERWIN W. LAY,
Of the Mission

TUESDAY EVENING SESSION

NOVEMBER 26, 1918, 7:30 O'CLOCK

Past Grand Master Scudder having made a most exhaustive and inspiring report of the negotiations entered into by the New York Brethren with the government, calculated to secure consent for Masonry to engage in war relief work with the United States forces overseas, said report, delivered extemporaneously, being substantially as set out in the preceding pages under the heading "Report of the Overseas Mission," this Conference was again convened in business session after the dinner hour and the following proceedings were had:

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, in driving an automobile through a muddy road where there has been no car through ahead of you, you always have to be very careful how you handle your machine or you are liable to overheat your engine. So, because of the importance of this report, we have delayed the session that this committee might get it in exactly the shape it ought to be in, and I beg your pardon for the delay which they found unavoidable.

We will listen now to the report of the committee of which Brother McPherson is the chairman.

Grand Master Hugh A. McPherson (Michigan): Mr. Chairman, the committee to whom the resolution was referred is ready to report.

(Reading):

Whereas, At the meeting of the Grand Masters held in the City of New York on May 9, 1918, the request was made that the Mission appointed by the Grand Master of Masons in the state of New York, to go overseas and engage in war relief work for the benefit of the boys with the colors; likewise undertake in this work to represent the Sister Jurisdictions attending that Conference, assenting thereto and joining in said request; and

Whereas, Thereafter said Mission began negotiations

with the governmental authorities at Washington, D. C., having for its object and purpose the accomplishment of the will of the fraternity to engage in overseas work for the benefit of our soldiers and sailors; and

Whereas, A report has been made to this meeting of Grand Masters by Past Grand Master Townsend Scudder of the efforts made by said committee or Mission to carry out the will of the Masonic fraternity in the United States in the matter of its engaging in war service and relief work; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, First, that the report of the aforesaid Mission, presented to this Conference of Grand Masters, be, and the same is, hereby ratified, adopted and approved; and that the same be done by roll call vote of Jurisdictions, to the end that any Jurisdiction which may not care to avail itself of the work that has been done in this regard, may so signify by its vote, and thereby be released of all responsibility in the premises; be it further

Resolved, That just so soon as the aforesaid report is completed by the closing of the transaction so far as the government is concerned, through the receipt of the reply of the President to the letter of November 11, 1918, referred to in said report, that said report be then printed and a copy thereof forwarded to each of the Jurisdictions accepting and adopting the same, including those Jurisdictions who have already signified their approval of this work; be it further

Resolved, That the thanks of this body of Grand Masters be tendered to Past Grand Master Scudder, and his associates, for the able and conscientious manner in which they have conducted the work intrusted to their care; for the report made by Past Grand Master Scudder, and for his devotion to the cause which we all represent.

Hugh A. McPherson, G. M. (Michigan)

Henry A. Grady, Dep. G. M. (North Carolina)

Louis Block, P. G. M. (Iowa)

I move the adoption of the resolution.

Grand Master Schoonover: As indicated therein?

Grand Master McPherson: As indicated.

Grand Master Schoonover: Is there a second to the motion?
(Motion seconded.)

Grand Master Schoonover: It is moved and seconded that the motion be adopted by the roll call of the States. I will ask Grand Secretary Parvin to proceed.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Brother Chairman, before that resolution is put, does not a perfect spirit of candor demand of us that we have called to our attention the sentiments of brethren who do not see or may not see the thing as we do?

I hold in my hand a couple of letters which are a part of this record. They will be printed in the record, I take it. It seems to me because perhaps but few of us have read or seen them they will not throw any light on this situation to guide our voting, so I am disposed, Brother Chairman, if you will bear with me, to read these letters or a part of them, because I feel that the brethren should all have the benefit of the other side of this situation as it is expressed by these brethren in these letters addressed to our Chairman.

"Richmond, Va., Oct. 8, 1918.

"Most Worshipful Geo. L. Schoonover,

"Grand Master of Iowa,

"Anamosa, Iowa.

"My dear Brother:

"Are you not a little late? We threshed out the subject of what, if anything, to do for our troops, and as to France last February. I refer you to our 1918 Proceedings, pp. 56-57 and 60. I am of opinion, and our Masons are in accord, so far as I am informed, that we can not recognize France now for the same reasons that have governed for forty years, viz.:—they are not of our Rite; they do not even claim our basic principle of the Fatherhood of God over the Brotherhood, and they are partisan in politics and religion.

"Our soldiers get all we could give them through the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A., to both of which we subscribe as lodges and as individuals, and they do not need or want our further action. Our view is that we should conserve our resources for the proper time which will come after the War or as our wounded come home and the families of our dead need relief. I have read every word of the Washington and New York conferences and am more firmly convinced than ever that our course is the proper one. We should not be carried off our feet by excitement and spend now fruitlessly what our distressed will surely need a little later. I know Judge Scudder of New York and have for eleven years, and consider him a very unsafe leader.

"I am sorry you and I differ so widely but feel sure that time will show that our attitude is conservative and cor-

rect. I have spent time in Camp Lee with our soldier Masons, helped organize a Masonic Club there, which they were kind enough to name for their Colonel and myself jointly, so I think I am pretty well informed as to what is best in the circumstances which are so entirely unprecedented.

"To make our attitude plainer as to France, permit me to say that we, York Masons as we call ourselves, descending from Scotland and Ireland rather than from the Moderns of England (1717), look upon all those having any Scottish Rite influence over Symbolic Masonry as not of our household. We have never recognized officially anything as Masonry save lodges and Grand Lodges. Our Chapters were established 110 years ago as a concession, and to this day even Grand High Priests have no sort of recognition as such.

"I was greatly pleased at your election as Grand Master and congratulate you and your Grand Lodge heartily.

"So, as Shakespeare said, 'Let's be like lawyers, wrangle mightily, but feast together.'

"DAMN THE KAISER.

"Cordially and fraternally yours,

"Joseph W. Eggleston."

The other letter is from another brother, from Massachusetts:

"My dear Grand Master:

"Your letter and telegram of recent date were duly received and have been given my very careful consideration. I appreciate the very great interest that you are taking in the matters to which your letter refers and your real Masonic desire to render practical and effective service. It is self-evident that the two millions of Masons in this country are not doing collectively what they ought to do to advance the interests of their brethren in the service. I have given these matters of assistance to the brethren in the military and naval service a great deal of thought and attention since I have been Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. We have been doing quite a bit to help, but far less than we are able and ought to do. I early adopted the plan of appointing special deputies with each military unit going from Massachusetts and containing members of our Fraternity. I also named two or three special deputies in the naval service. These deputies are keeping me in touch with the Masonic situation in the places where they are stationed or located and are commissioned to render relief, to report to me how we or others can best render assistance or relief,

and are enjoined to form Masonic clubs whenever it is practical to do so. I am constantly getting reports from these deputies and I am more and more convinced that this plan is a very wise one. It is only now and then that I get a report from a deputy suggesting anything that the Masons of Massachusetts can do to help out on the other side. We are raising a war relief fund to provide for those who may become in need through the war. We have built a theater at Camp Devens and engaged in various other activities at that camp, which is the only one located in Massachusetts.

"We are not in fraternal relation with any of the so-called Grand Lodges of France and this for the reasons set out in detail by my predecessors and also by me upon several occasions in my addresses before the quarterly meetings of our Grand Lodge. I shall be glad to furnish you with full and complete information as to our position relative to the Masonic recognition of any of the Grand Lodges in France if it should prove of special interest to you.

"I attended the Conference of Grand Masters held in New York in May when it was arranged that Judge Scudder and two associates should investigate conditions on the other side and report to each of the Grand Lodge Jurisdictions as to how assistance could best be given. I am also familiar with the situation relating to the holding up of the passports of Judge Scudder and his associates and the consequent inability to carry out the purpose embodied in the resolve adopted at the New York Conference. Perhaps you are not familiar with the inside history of the failure of this mission to carry out what it so earnestly desired to do. Perhaps also you have not been informed as to the history leading up to the recent sending across of Brothers Moore, Cochran and Stevenson, representing the Southern Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite. There is much that can be said regarding the sending of this latter delegation and the refusal to let the delegation headed by Judge Scudder carry out their proposed work that can not properly be said on paper. I hope that you are entirely familiar with all the details concerning these Masonic missions.

"I do not feel that such a conference as you suggest being held within the next thirty days would be productive of such good results as to warrant the holding of such a conference at this time. This conclusion is based upon all the information that has come to me from my own deputies and otherwise and from an intimate participation in the

New York Conference and consultation with those who have had to do with dealing with the War Department since that Conference. There are many things that I do not understand and I am earnestly trying to be temperate in thought and expression regarding certain facts which have come to my knowledge.

"I do not believe, my dear Most Worshipful Brother Schoonover, that the time is ripe for such a meeting as you propose, although I hope that you are assured of my hearty sympathy with the purpose you outline. There never has been a time in the history of the Order when such a glorious opportunity has been offered for translating Masonic teachings into living expression.

"With high regard, I am

"Fraternally yours,

"Leon M. Abbott,

"Grand Master."

I might add, "and therefore, let us do something." There never was such an opportunity to translate Masonic teachings into Masonic action, and yet our brother says, do nothing. It is hard to understand.

Now, I do not know what this dear brother knows. It is hard for a man to know facts, to whom facts have not been told, and he was not present at a single meeting where we discussed with the War Department the question of our passports. Sometimes those who are not present are the ones who know the most.

Grand Master Warlow (Florida): Pardon me, didn't he say he was at the New York meeting?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Yes, but he seems to know or thinks he knows all that took place with reference to this matter at Washington. He does not, because he was not present and I have not told it to him. This thing has been told for the first time here. It is not known in New York. It was not known to the men in New York excepting to the ones who came here as a delegation, and the ones who came here came because they were the ones who did know. Brother Abbott's knowledge is quite beyond me, but I think you ought to have his claim before you. I think you should have your eyes opened and should vote with very great caution.

Past Grand Master Watres: Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Watres of Pennsylvania.

Past Grand Master Watres: I did not understand this afternoon, when the motion was made which has been put in writing, that it was to be as broad as it is. Before the states are called, and in view of the breadth and scope of the resolution, I think I ought to say a word lest I might be misunderstood.

We are referred to as a Grand Masters' conference, which is, I think, properly stating it. But, if we are a Grand Masters' conference, then I ought not to vote upon a resolution of this sort. I am the only representative of Pennsylvania, and I think it is due to you to know what the Grand Master of Pennsylvania has in mind.

Any question which relates to the war fund I am authorized to vote upon; but, I cannot feel myself authorized to vote upon a resolution as broad in its scope as this, because the implication anyway might easily be that the Pennsylvania Jurisdiction was bound thereby; and if I declined to vote at all, it would probably be misunderstood.

Now, brethren, this afternoon and this morning the chairman very properly said that he thought — and he always thinks right — that the cards ought to be put upon the table. I think so too. I think we ought not to vote anything here until we are quite certain that it would meet the approval of our lodges behind us. Brethren, we are going rather fast. I am willing to go in high gear with any of you when I know we are right. But I am a little afraid that we ought to go somewhat slower than is indicated by this resolution. If the resolution read as I thought it was intended this afternoon, that we approved of the work done by Brother Justice Scudder, I would vote for it anyway; but there is more in it than that.

It somehow seems to hook up the states who vote for it to the things therein set forth, and I am not so sure about that. I am not so sure; I do not say they should not be, but I say it is a point at which we ought to hesitate.

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, I feel, as I suppose you feel, representing as we do nearly two million Masons in this great country of ours, as though we were walking on holy ground, and that our tread must be a measured tread, that every step we take should be a step from which we should not recede.

The resolution this morning was going some. I saw in that resolution the clear thinking and the logical legal mind of our distinguished Brother Scudder, and if he were not here I would say that wherever he is and at whatever assemblage he is, there is clear thinking and clear action. But that resolution only meaning that it was the sense of those who were here that we should proceed along the lines of an organization, I would cheerfully vote for because I think we ought to proceed along the lines of organization, but not proceed too rapidly.

I am afraid, my brethren, that that resolution as it is drawn, if I understand it and if I gathered its scope, is one which we ought carefully to consider before we adopt it. And, feeling as I do, I would be obliged to ask to be relieved from voting because I do not think I have the authority to vote upon that question.

Now, Most Worshipful Grand Master, I know you well enough to know that you want to know what anybody knows about this situation we have before us. I think, therefore, you are entitled to know about my own Jurisdiction.

As most of you know, or many of you know, I come from Pennsylvania, a great Jurisdiction; great for its traditions and its history and its men; and second to none in its Masonic spirit. But I presume I may truly say, and I think maybe this is the time to say it, that Pennsylvania is not as alert as some Jurisdictions in changing its procedure or in taking up new things. Speaking now not even as a Past Grand Master of the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge, but as a Mason of Pennsylvania, I am entirely in accord with the purpose of this Conference; but it would be unfair to Grand Master Krause and unfair to my Grand Lodge not to have you understand the situation, because understanding it I believe we will be the better able to guide ourselves as to what we may do, not only our Grand Lodge, but other Grand Lodges just like ours, who are not here. I know you will believe me when I say I do not want to put a discordant word in here, for I am, as I say, in entire accord with this movement. But, brethren, let us go slow.

Brother Krause, the Grand Master, said this to me in a letter: "Do we not depart from the landmarks and customs and our past

traditions when we come out in the open as an organization under distinctive appellation?"

If he asked me personally, I would say no, that I do not think we do; but when I stand here to represent Grand Master Krause, it would be unfair for me not to say to you what Brother Krause thinks. He is the Grand Master of a great Jurisdiction. I believe in the wind-up that the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge will take a view of the situation that we are now considering which will result in a unity of action throughout this country of ours by the 1,800,000, or whatever number there are, of Master Masons. But I would be untrue to myself if I did not suggest to you in all earnestness that to bring that to pass, with Pennsylvania or with other organizations that might not be here, I believe we ought to go slow enough and tread carefully enough so as to get them all in tune and in step and in accord and in touch as one, with the great purpose of this movement. If we do not, I am afraid we will have a house divided against itself.

Now, may I speak rather broadly, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and not directly on this resolution, or what is your ruling on that?

I do not want to get away from the resolution, but I want to say this: If we are going to, and I hope we are, and I will help it any way I can, build up an organization which shall supervise the conduct of Masons in this country of ours, and which shall direct the things Masonry ought to do outside, of course, of limitations which we will put upon ourselves as the movement progresses, I believe we have got to do it upon a scale large enough and broad enough to take in all bodies of Masonry. I believe that must be in your minds too.

Brethren, if this resolution is amended so as to approve of the action of Judge Scudder and his commission, I shall be very glad to vote for it, because I think I have the authority. And I want to say in passing, too, that I believe he has done the fraternity a great benefit by his action. I believe he is entitled to the thanks of Masons everywhere for his insistence and his persistence, and for the way he has brought the issue to where it now is. I doubt very much if he himself — I do not know,

but I doubt very much if he himself would want us at this stage to commit ourselves as I understand the resolution as presented does.

Grand Master Hugh A. McPherson (Michigan): Mr. Chairman.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother McPherson of Michigan.

Grand Master McPherson: I believe that the intention of the resolution is just exactly what our Most Worshipful Brother from Pennsylvania desires, and I regret that the time is so short that we could not all have had a copy of this resolution. May I not ask you to read the resolution again, so that it may be better understood, or else have the stenographer print enough copies to go around among all the members present.

Grand Master Schoonover: Of course, if we have good luck, Brother McPherson, we will have it before us in the morning.

Grand Master McPherson: I think if you will read it again, that that will be satisfactory.

Grand Master Schoonover: I will do that.

(The resolution was re-read by Grand Master Schoonover.)

Grand Master Schoonover: May I be permitted to say just a word before we go any further.

I am not a lawyer, but I appreciate just what it means to a lawyer to have the record straight. If I understand correctly the predicament in which Judge Scudder and his associates have been placed in these negotiations with the government, he has taken advantage all the way through of the opportunity afforded to give every one of our Jurisdictions a chance to get in on this. He has made a record with the departments in Washington which enables any Grand Jurisdiction accepting this resolution, or accepting the report if it should be changed to modify certain conditions which Brother Watres has brought us, to have an opportunity to avail itself of the alibi which Judge Scudder and his associates have placed on record in Washington; so that we can face our boys when they come back and say we have done the best we could.

That is what I understand to be the purpose of the peculiar language in one or two cases, to fix it so that the representations made by Judge Scudder in Washington may not be denied

in this resolution, but that they may be approved, and that that approval instead of being initiated at this time may be in part dated back to the original date when they were authorized by certain Jurisdictions to commence this work.

That is my interpretation of the present situation. Is that correct?

Brother William C. Prime (New York): I think your mind works perfectly, Mr. Chairman.

Grand Master Schoonover: That is your interpretation, is it not, Brother Prime?

Brother Prime: Yes.

Grand Master Schoonover: So what Brother Watres fears I think is not involved at all by intention, and if he and Judge Scudder, who have their heads so closely together now, and their arms around one another, are getting the particular words that are bothering Brother Watres straightened out, I believe we have an opportunity here to make that record just as complete as I feel it ought to be in justice to Brother Scudder.

Grand Secretary Stockwell (North Dakota): Is not one of the points that Brother Scudder raises a question of a Grand Masters' conference? I think we made it very clear this morning that this was not essentially a Grand Masters' conference, but that it was a Masonic conference. In fact, you said you did not even dare to attach the name "American" to it in the morning.

I believe if you would modify that where it speaks of "Grand Masters' conference" and substitute the words, "Masonic conference," that you would get over a lot of the obstacles.

Grand Master Schoonover: I thought of that very clearly, Brother Stockwell, but perhaps the use of that phraseology in this particular resolution has considerable weight with the establishment of this record, regardless of the fact that I for one feel and I want everyone here to feel, that this is not exactly a Grand Masters' conference in the sense in which they have been previously so designated. But for the purpose for which this resolution is intended, which is primarily to establish a record in Washington, we might accept the phraseology proposed. We will see, however, what they evolve now.

Now, Brother McPherson, have I said what you were going to say, or something along that line?

Grand Master McPherson: You have.

Brother S. W. Williams (Tennessee): It has occurred to me that a Masonic conference of Grand Masters was a trifle different from a Grand Masters' conference. I also understood this morning that in the organization of this body we would not necessarily, in invoking it, absolutely bind our Grand Bodies which we represent.

Grand Master Schoonover: There is no doubt about that; we cannot do that.

Brother Williams: I wanted that clearly understood by the body.

Grand Master Schoonover: That again brings up the point which I think is clearly stated in this resolution, that while we recognize the fact very clearly that what we do here must be re-submitted for approval to our respective Jurisdictions, yet for the purpose of fixing Judge Scudder's record and giving him the indorsement which I believe we are all agreed he should have in the great work he has done, perhaps this resolution is very wisely worded.

Have you got my point, Brother Watres? Do you see what I am driving at?

Past Grand Master Watres: I do, and I have got your point, but may I say a word?

Grand Master Schoonover: Certainly.

Past Grand Master Watres: Now, understand me, Most Worshipful Grand Master, I do not want to raise any technical point at all, but as I heard this resolution it occurred to me, and upon a reading of it it again occurs to me that if passed in the form in which it has been read, it would necessitate the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, to illustrate, taking a vote upon the question and perhaps negating the whole thing.

I feel that that ought not to be the plan. I feel it ought to be so if they want to vote upon it and confirm it, they may do so, but that they should not be obliged to enter a negative vote in order not to come under this resolution.

In discussing the matter, with Brother Scudder, this has been

suggested. May I read the resolution and his suggestion as we talked it over?

Grand Master Schoonover: Certainly.

Past Grand Master Watres: "Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, first, that the report of the aforesaid Mission, presented to this Conference of Grand Masters, be, and the same is, hereby ratified, adopted and approved; and that the same be done by roll call vote of Jurisdictions."

Then it goes on to say: "To the end that any jurisdiction which may not care to avail itself of the work that has been done in this regard may so signify by its vote."

In other words, we have to take a vote upon it and thereby be released of all responsibility in the premises. I believe that this would rectify that seeming difference or difficulty; to insert—and this is Brother Scudder's suggestion—after the word "vote," in the fourth line of the second page, these words: "Or by failure to vote thereon affirmatively within six months."

In other words, if they did not vote within six months, they would not be under this resolution.

It may seem to you a small point, but I believe we ought to have the record right as we go along so there will be no misunderstanding. And I therefore offer that as an amendment, as I have stated it, i. e., to insert after the word "vote" in the fourth line, the words "or by failure to vote thereon affirmatively within six months."

Grand Master A. H. Scrogin (Illinois): I like the change, but permit me to suggest that all the Grand Lodges might not be in session within the next six months unless called in special session.

Past Grand Master Watres: I put it that way merely because I know our Grand Lodge will meet within the next six months.

Grand Master Scrogin: I would like the change all right, if the time was given us within which to meet.

Grand Master Schoonover: Make it twelve months.

Grand Master Scrogin: I am entirely agreeable to that.

Grand Secretary John Fishel (Minnesota): Could that not be remedied by amending it to read, "at the next communication?"

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Watres, is that suggestion in line with your thought?

Past Grand Master Watres: Twelve months?

Grand Master Schoonover: No, Brother Fishel's suggestion.

Past Grand Master Watres: I did not get that.

Grand Master Schoonover: That instead of saying "within six months," you should say "or by failure to vote on it at the next annual communication."

Grand Secretary Fishel: No, "the next communication."

Grand Master Schoonover: At the next communication.

Past Grand Master Watres: "Next communication." I think that would be better still.

Grand Master Schoonover: Yes.

Past Grand Master Watres: How would it read then? "Affirmatively" —

Grand Master Schoonover: At its next communication.

Past Grand Master Watres: Yes, I accept that and make a motion to amend it in that way.

Grand Master Hugh A. McPherson (Michigan): Mr. Chairman.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother McPherson.

Grand Master McPherson: The committee to which the resolution was referred will willingly accept that amendment to the resolution.

Grand Master Schoonover: Shall I read the section of the resolution as now amended by Brother Watres? Well, there was no second to your amendment, Brother Watres, but they have accepted it. Shall I read it?

Past Grand Master Watres: Yes.

Grand Master Schoonover: "Now, therefore, be it resolved first, that the report of the aforesaid Mission, presented to this Conference of Grand Masters, be, and the same is, hereby ratified, adopted and approved; and that the same be done by roll call vote of Jurisdictions, to the end that any Jurisdiction which may not care to avail itself of the work that has been done in this regard, may so signify by its vote, or by a failure to vote thereon affirmatively at its next communication, and thereby be released of all responsibility in the premises."

Past Grand Master John A. Ehrhardt (Nebraska): Mr. Chairman, I am from Nebraska, and I belong to the "fossils," being a Past Grand Master of Nebraska. I am not now a Grand Master, however, and I would like to know what is meant by the last sentence in that part of the resolution which you read, "and thereby be released of all responsibility in the premises."

Grand Master Schoonover: You did not hear Judge Scudder's statement this afternoon?

Past Grand Master Ehrhardt: I heard the conclusion of his statement.

Grand Master Schoonover: Judge Scudder, would it be imposing on you to ask you to repeat just that small part of your statement so that the brother will understand it a little more precisely?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Nothing would be imposing upon me, but it might be imposing upon these gentlemen.

Grand Master Schoonover: I do not think so.

Past Grand Master Scudder: I think it ran through our minds that that which we endeavored to do, representing the fraternity at large, had perhaps in a sense bound you, particularly after you had been advised of it, because we had in all our dealings spoken for the Masonic fraternity of the United States. So we thought that now an opportunity should be given to you either to accept the report, if you felt there was therein anything worth your while to use at any time, or to relieve yourselves of the responsibility of whatever agency you communicated to us, and thus be cut loose from our activities, whether wise or pernicious.

Past Grand Master George Lawler (Washington): Mr. Chairman, I feel if I vote in the affirmative on this that I am making the Grand Lodge which I represent a plaintiff in the case. I think that is an expression that would be understood. Is that the idea, Judge?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Making it a what?

Past Grand Master Lawler: A plaintiff in this matter. Suppose this was a lawsuit?

Past Grand Master Scudder: No, I take it you are not bound in anywise, excepting you act upon it at your next communication. As I take it, we are here as a body of thinking men,

charged with very grave responsibility, and seeking in an informal way to determine what is the right thing to do. I take it we are going to take all this work home, and that, as a matter of fact, none of it really becomes binding excepting our Grand Lodges act upon it. But so far as we individually are concerned, that which we here may do will be an expression of that which is in our individual hearts. I do not take it that any man here is supposed to be binding his Grand Lodge. I do take it that whatever he voices by his vote, that is what he personally believes in. If that which he believes in is in harmony with the common belief of this body, doubtless he will become a strong advocate before his Grand Lodge to have it adopt that which here he thought wise. If, on the other hand, he votes the other way, doubtless that will convey to the minds of most of those here that he is not in harmony with what is done here, and doubtless then, if it is believed that it is for the best interests of Masonry that his Grand Lodge should have the matter presented to it, then through his courtesy we will ask that a committee representing this body here may be permitted to address his Grand Lodge, and present the matter, not from the standpoint of one in opposition, but from the standpoint of an advocate. That is as I understand it, and there is no compulsion one way or the other. Nothing we do here binds any Grand Lodge; it is just an expression of the opinion of the men here and then these men, as they voice their expression, thereby will become advocates, those who are with the majority, of what the majority will do, and those who are not, then they, in their great desire to see done that which is right, will gladly have an appeal taken from their judgment to their own Jurisdictions, and there have the matter threshed out, to see whether their Jurisdictions are in perfect accord with the stand which they took here.

Past Grand Master Brockway (South Dakota): In my opinion, you have two propositions embraced in that one section. From what I have heard since the report was made by Judge Scudder, I am inclined to think that there is not a person in the room, or a Jurisdiction represented, but what is heartily in favor of the adoption of that portion of the section which proposes

to ratify, confirm and approve what the New York Commission did, and in order that that may be set out clearly, it occurs to me that that section ought to stop right there, and that a new section should be introduced between that and the following one, covering the idea of the general matter involved in the report made this afternoon, which is to be definitely presented to the various Grand Lodges for their consideration and adoption, instead of having it tacked on to the end of that section, as a rather indefinite statement of how we are to know, sometime in the future, whether this is to be the real purpose, animus and intention of American Freemasonry in its future relations with itself.

Let the approval be without any question, because I think Judge Scudder is entitled to it, and his commission — absolutely. They have gone into this matter with such thorough studiosness and have knocked on every door and have gone here and there, playing battledore and shuttle-cock between departments, endeavoring to find a way by which the thing that was agreed upon in New York could be made effective.

The committee is entitled to an absolute endorsement of their action in that regard. We should separate that then from the manner in which this is to become effective in the Jurisdictions, and draft another section, as to the manner, time and place by which the several Grand Lodges may take advantage of this. Then there will be no question but that the resolutions will be the expression of the opinion of the persons here present, not in an official capacity, and a recommendation that the matter involved in this report and these resolutions be submitted to the different Grand Lodges, clearly, definitely and for their action, and I doubt not that before the snow flies of another winter, there will be a ratification, universally by every Grand Lodge within the United States. But the matter of the submission of this to the Grand Lodges, so they may definitely know what it is they are accepting, should be put in there as a separate, distinct part of those resolutions, so that there may no question arise in any Grand Lodge as to just exactly what we are called to act upon, and I move that the resolution be re-referred to the committee for the purpose of redrafting the first section, stop-

ping with the word "approved" and introducing a new section covering the matter of its submission to the Grand Lodges.

Brother Prime: I second the motion.

Brother S. W. Williams (Tennessee): Most Worshipful Grand Master, wouldn't it be better to divide this resolution into two resolutions?

Grand Master Schoonover: That is exactly the purport of the motion, as I understand it.

Brother Williams: The brother used the word "section" and proposed to draft another section of the same resolution.

Grand Master Schoonover: Yes.

Brother Williams: Making two sections upon which to vote. What I mean is to make two separate resolutions and vote on this one first.

Grand Master Schoonover: May we not leave that to the judgment of the committee?

Brother Williams: Yes.

Grand Master Schoonover: As to just the form—I think they understand what they are doing all right, and I think they will accept this suggestion.

Deputy Grand Master Grady (North Carolina): Brother Chairman, after listening to Brother Scudder's remarks a few moments ago, and the apparent objections which have been raised to the adoption of this report, I think the whole matter may be settled by adding this to the end of our report, and without consulting with the other members on the committee, I am going to suggest that we add this:

"Resolved, Further, that the action of this body be taken and accepted only as the individual opinion of the Grand Masters and their representatives here present, and that the action of this body be presented to the respective Grand Bodies here represented, for adoption or rejection at the next communication."

Brother Williams: That covers it.

Past Grand Master Evans (Nebraska): Before the matter just suggested is presented, let me say that should it be adopted, it will take away the very purpose that we have in the adoption of this resolution, so far as it supports Brother Scudder. Let there be an adoption unqualifiedly, without any ifs, ands or

but. Then he knows where he stands, and if we want to make something else different later on, we can do so, but give him his approval, without any ifs, ands or buts, and then he knows where he stands.

Grand Master Homer (Maryland) : I wish to endorse what the brother just said. If we keep on, we will emasculate this resolution so that it will not be an endorsement, and the Washington authorities will be justified in their contention that there is no unanimity among the forty-nine Jurisdictions. That is the very thing we want to avoid. I feel we ought to give this New York committee an unqualified endorsement. We can have a separate resolution referring it back to our Grand Lodges, if we want to, for action and report, but I think the endorsement we give here tonight ought to be an unqualified endorsement. Do not emasculate the resolution so that it means nothing.

Grand Master Hugh A. McPherson : The Committee has considered further objections to this resolution, but we believed that it was wise to leave any further references to this meeting of what should be done to some one else to submit after we had approved of the report given to us by Judge Scudder this morning or this afternoon, and that section which is under discussion was one of the most important sections to our minds in his report — that was to avail ourselves of the alibi that we have done something, and we believe, my brothers, that that is the part of the resolution that you want to pass right here. That is, I believe, the meat of the resolution for us. New York has the alibi ; they are offering it to us ; shall we accept it now ?

Brother Wherry (Utah) : At the last session of our Grand Lodge, in reporting on the Washington Conference I was asked to present a resolution covering the status of our Grand Master should he come to such a conference as this during this year. I asked them how much power they wanted to give him, stating it as my opinion that if we were not to waste his time and money in attending such a conference we must bestow upon him the authority to act as our regularly constituted representative here, with power to do and to act, and I think if we tonight are to quibble over the little differences expressed in this one small resolution, we are starting right in to weaken this campaign upon which we started this morning.

I am here as the representative of perhaps the smallest Grand Lodge in the country and it is perhaps presumptuous for me to make these statements, but I can say, as coming from the Grand Lodge far away from the centers of Masonic thought, that our brethren there are ready to back up their representative with action, and I have no hesitancy in going on record as being willing to endorse without reservation the action of the New York delegation, and I would like very much to see the brethren here take the same stand and step out and really act. (Applause.)

Past Grand Master Brockway (South Dakota): I might say, Worshipful, that I am heartily in accord with the sentiments just expressed. If you tear the tail off that resolution I am ready to vote now. You can tear the tail right off and vote the absolute approval.

Past Grand Master Watres: Worshipful Grand Master, I think we all agree that everybody is in favor of ratifying the action of the New York committee. This resolution says so. All it says besides that is that unless a Grand Lodge at its next communication votes affirmatively upon this proposition, they are not bound thereby. That does approve the action absolutely as it should be approved, and we all think so. It does leave it, however, to the next communication of every Grand Lodge to say affirmatively whether they choose to be bound thereby or not. I see nothing out of the way about it.

Brother Wherry: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question?

Grand Master Schoonover: Certainly.

Brother Wherry: Isn't it Masonic law that all the acts of officers of the Grand Lodge are subject to review at the next session of the Grand Lodge?

Past Grand Master Watres: Let me say just this: Of course, it is as he says, but the resolution as first drawn and presented did not leave it that way. It left it so that every Grand Lodge would have to take negative action upon it, which, to my mind, is a vast difference.

Past Grand Master Robt. E. Evans (Nebraska): I want to ask a question for information.

Grand Master Schoonover: Certainly.

Past Grand Master Evans: Is it intended or will it probably be used by this commission or any one acting in a similar capacity, between now and the meetings of the Grand Lodges represented by the representatives here?

Grand Master Hugh A. McPherson: Surely.

Past Grand Master Evans: Then if that is correct, and we put on the tail, permitting action at any time within the year or at the next annual meeting, you have nullified the effect sought by the presentation of the paper you are about to act upon, while if you tear off the tail and approve it, you have given the New York Commission an unqualified approval, but if you say a Jurisdiction can withdraw its approval within the next twelve months, the very first question that will be asked of the Commission will be how many have drawn back? Or, why was that provision attached?

Grand Master Schoonover: Now, brethren, let us think for a minute where this is leading us. I hope I may have Judge Scudder's unqualified attention for just a minute because I see a little more in this as we go on. The very beautiful unity which we wish we had and which we know very well we have not, is the unity which is the only thing that is going to get us anywhere near the work we are thinking about doing. That is conclusively shown in what we have heard this afternoon from Judge Scudder.

A certain theory has been built up in the minds of a group of men connected with the government, who, by their own confessions, know nothing about Freemasonry. We do know. But we are not using bad faith with anybody when we use good faith with Judge Scudder and back him up to the limit. And if, as has been indicated by our action of this morning, we get some semblance of that unity to put in concrete form behind Judge Scudder before we leave Cedar Rapids, then we have made good and can bring it in good faith absolutely to those uninitiated profanes.

Is there any distinction in there in regard to this matter? I have been trying to formulate it in some way so we can see it more clearly.

Past Grand Master Block (Iowa): Mr. Chairman, I think

I have the solution of this whole business right here. Let me read the stinger part and leave off a piece of the tail, and see if it won't be all right:

"Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, First, that the report of the aforesaid Mission, presented to this Conference of Grand Masters, be and the same is hereby ratified, adopted and approved; be it further

"Resolved, That just so soon as the aforesaid report is completed by the closing of the transaction so far as the government is concerned, through the receipt of the reply of the President to the letter of November 11, 1918, referred to in said report, that said report be then printed and a copy thereof forwarded to each of the Jurisdictions accepting and adopting the same, including those Jurisdictions who have already signified their approval of this work; be it further

"Resolved, That the thanks of this body of Grand Masters be tendered to Past Grand Master Scudder and his associates, for the able and conscientious manner in which they have conducted the work entrusted to their care; for the report made by Past Grand Master Scudder, and for his devotion to the cause which we all represent."

Doesn't that do the whole business?

Past Grand Master Brockway: Mr. Chairman, with the consent of my second, I will withdraw the motion and move that the amendment be adopted.

Brother Prime: I take pleasure in withdrawing the second. It can be said that New York is extremely glad again to give every one the benefit of getting in out of the wet. It is not our concern; it is yours, therefore we are quite anxious to aid you all we can.

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the adoption of the entire resolution as amended. That section now, as I understand it, is stricken out.

Past Grand Master Watres: As he read it.

Grand Master Schoonover: As Brother Block read it. Are there any further remarks?

Past Grand Master Anderson (Oklahoma): I ask for a roll call on that vote, on the resolution.

Grand Master Schoonover: The roll will be called.

(The roll call showed a unanimous adoption of the resolution as amended, as follows:)

"Whereas, At the meeting of the Grand Masters held in the City of New York on May 9, 1918, the request was made that the Mission appointed by the Grand Master of Masons in the state of New York, to go overseas and engage in war relief work for the benefit of the boys with the colors; likewise undertake in this work to represent the Sister Jurisdictions attending that conference, assenting thereto and joining in said request; and

"Whereas, Thereafter said Mission began negotiations with the governmental authorities at Washington, D. C., having for its object and purpose the accomplishment of the will of the fraternity to engage in overseas work for the benefit of our soldiers and sailors; and

"Whereas, A report has been made to this meeting of Grand Masters by Past Grand Master Townsend Scudder of the efforts made by said committee or Mission to carry out the will of the Masonic fraternity in the United States in the matter of its engaging in war service and relief work; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, First, that the report of the aforesaid Mission, presented to this Conference of Grand Masters, be, and the same is hereby ratified, adopted and approved; be it further

"Resolved, That just so soon as the aforesaid report is completed by the closing of the transaction so far as the government is concerned, through the receipt of the reply of the President to the letter of November 11, 1918, referred to in said report, that said report be then printed and a copy thereof forwarded to each of the Jurisdictions accepting and adopting the same, including those Jurisdictions which have already signified their approval of this work; be it further

"Resolved, That the thanks of this body of Grand Masters be tendered to Past Grand Master Scudder, and his associates, for the able and conscientious manner in which they have conducted the work entrusted to their care; for the report made by Past Grand Master Scudder, and for his devotion to the cause which we all represent."

Grand Master Schoonover: Now then, brethren, have we any further action to take in this particular matter? If not, I want to bring something else up.

If we have nothing further to discuss on this matter at this time, let us now go back to the resolution introduced by myself this morning, in which Brother Watres sees a fine hand, not my own.

Past Grand Master Watres: I withdraw the remark.

Grand Master Schoonover: No, it is true. Are we ready now to make our informal action of this morning, formal, in order that we may commence a study of the manner in which we shall meet this problem? If, as the passage of this resolution indicates, we are ready for action, then I believe we are ready to make that informal vote, formal.

Brother Wherry: Mr. Chairman, this morning at the session, there was something said about a copy of that proposed resolution being passed around, that we might have a better opportunity to study it. It seems to me that it would be fitting that, inasmuch as we have gone this far without an opportunity to study that resolution, we have a copy of it for the night to study and consider. It would seem reasonable to me that we could proceed with other matters.

Brother Prime: Brother Chairman, cannot we have it read again, so we can chew it over night, and have the benefit of the printed copy in the morning and act promptly.

Grand Master Schoonover: The printer did not understand that we wanted a number of copies of this, particularly, and did not bring them to us, so they will have to appear in the morning's minutes, but we will have them then, Brother Wherry.

Now, I think there is wisdom in what has been said, and I will re-read the resolution that I presented this morning. It also occurs to me that there are two or three more delegates in the house than were here this morning, and for their information it ought by all means to be read.

(Resolution read by the Chairman, as set out in the minutes of the morning session.)

I will say for the benefit of those brethren who were not here this morning that we took a purely informal vote on this resolution this morning, it being the intention to ascertain somewhat of the temper of this body — a personal expression merely is what we had, and it was unanimously carried on that basis. Have I stated it correctly now? There is no misinterpretation of what I have said as it goes into these minutes?

Brother Wherry, I wonder if you still adhere to the idea you had when you spoke a moment ago to this point.

Brother Wherry: Mr. Chairman, purely in the sense of my

personal idea of it, I do not feel that with merely the reading of it I have had any opportunity to give consideration to the form of the organization as proposed. I cannot see the object of a final vote on the resolution because we have a unanimous expression of the sentiment here, showing that we are in favor of such an organization.

Grand Master Schoonover: My thought was, however, that I would assume an authority by no means delegated to me, were I to use the expression of this morning as a basis for appointing a committee to draft something tonight.

My thought is, brethren, that in spite of the fact that we have concluded that our turkey shall be eaten on Thanksgiving Day, yet the important business is going to come before this meeting when the report of this committee comes in, and the earlier we can start this committee to work and bring about tangible results, the better, and for that reason I desired to bring it up. You will see, perhaps, the reason I suggested it.

I take it, Brother Wherry, if after contemplation and study we should desire to modify the terms of this resolution, it could be readily done, but I believe we understand the general scope of the resolution as it is, and if we now start a committee to work to crystallize the sentiments embodied in the resolution, then we shall be getting down to business. Our real debate, anyway, ought to be on the adoption of the report of that committee.

Brother Wherry: That is entirely agreeable to me, Mr. Chairman, because this committee you put to work may, in their labors, work out the very ideas that I have in mind. We shall have the opportunity to present to that committee such suggestions as may come to our minds.

Grand Master Schoonover: Absolutely, we must have that opportunity. Now, let me again ask the question: Are we ready under these conditions to place a little more formal approval upon this resolution, in order that the Chairman may feel that he really has authority to proceed to the selection of a committee?

Deputy Grand Master Grady (North Carolina): Mr. Chairman, in order to get the matter before the house, I move that the chairman now proceed to appoint a committee of five for the

purpose of drafting the plan of organization suggested in this resolution which was adopted this morning.

(Motion seconded.)

Past Grand Master Lawler (Washington): Mr. Chairman, I think that motion that we now formally vote should first be in order, and I move that the expression expressed this morning be now adopted by formal vote. In other words, that we adopt the resolution formally, and I would like a roll call.

Past Grand Master Scudder: I understand, Mr. Chairman, it is only an expression of principle. This resolution is not intended to bind us to any particular organization, but is intended to bind us to the principle that we should organize along these general lines, and that is as far as it goes.

Grand Master Schoonover: That is correct.

Past Grand Master Scudder: The purpose then being to bind us to the principle of organization along the general lines outlined in the resolution, the committee can be appointed to draft the Constitution and the whole thing can be treated as one, later on.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Lawler, was there a second to your motion?

(Motion seconded.)

Grand Master Schoonover: Is this motion presented as an amendment to Brother Grady's resolution?

Deputy Grand Master Grady: If it is necessary to pass upon the matter again, I will withdraw my motion for the present. I did not think it was necessary.

Brother S. W. Williams: I do not think it is necessary.

Grand Master Schoonover: We really have not had a record vote on it, except among ourselves.

The question is on the adoption of the resolution as read, which is now presented in a formal manner and upon which we will now proceed to vote.

Past Grand Master Anderson: For information largely I rise to this question: I am most heartily in favor of an organization, but why can not it include rather than the United States alone, all lodges in North America? It seems to me that all should be included in such a resolution.

Grand Master Schoonover: I will say for the benefit of Brother Anderson that the Chairman shared your opinion,—once. But that opinion was knocked into a cocked hat so quickly by a very pertinent suggestion from Brother Scudder that I am just going to let Brother Scudder answer you. That is, as far as I was concerned, it was knocked into a cocked hat, and I am now going to let Brother Scudder present his viewpoint of that, which I think will bring about the breadth of vision you have in mind.

Past Grand Master Anderson: That is what I want.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Mr. Chairman, I just have this notion with reference to that question: We are now building, as we hope, for the future. We are building so that we may be able to meet any crisis, any great crisis of a national kind that may come to us, tomorrow or fifty years hence.

None of us can look into the future and know how that crisis may come. None of us knows but that it might be—who can tell,—a controversy, for instance, springing up, as controversies do, for after all there is no real friendship between nations,—it is a matter of interest,—a controversy or dispute between ourselves, and, let us say, Canada. It might become necessary again for us to go to Washington and then it would appear that an organization was petitioning which embraced both Canada and America, or Mexico, or South America. Whereas, if instead of having them members of this organization, by our action we invite them to form like organizations, and there be affiliation between us, then should we have the misfortune of coming into any controversy with them which might embarrass us, those lines can be temporarily severed and the complication removed. It would not be so if they were part and parcel of us.

Therefore I think it wiser, as it impresses me, that in as far as our circle is concerned, our group, it had better be confined to our own territory, lest by some chance we get into international complications and again find our usefulness destroyed.

Past Grand Master Watres: Most Worshipful Grand Master, with a great deal of diffidence, may I get on my feet again?

Grand Master Schoonover: Yes, Brother Watres.

Past Grand Master Watres: As you all know, and you par-

ticularly, Mr. Chairman, I am heartily in favor of the movement which shall result in an organization such as outlined by this resolution. But I am wondering whether we are going at it right, and I do not want to raise any straw men, either; I do not want to raise any unnecessary questions in anybody's mind, but I would feel untrue to myself unless I expressed anyway the views which I have. They are views which partake of a little fear and trepidation. Nobody wants to be technical; Masons never ought to be technical, but Masons can not afford to do anything concerning which there may be misapprehensions and disagreements, especially at the very threshold of an organization so important as the organization we are talking about.

Maybe I do not see it right. This is about the way it presents itself to me and it has been dawning upon me since the second reading of this resolution.

The call of Brother Schoonover was based, as I read it, almost entirely upon the need of doing things for the boys overseas. It so appealed to me and it so appealed to all of you, I think. And we said, "Yes, we are for it," and that is why we are here. I do not think it went so far as to say that we were here today to organize speedily, without very mature deliberations, an organization which was to affect the destinies of 2,000,000 Masons in the United States, as this will affect them. I think it will affect them favorably, if we could adopt it, but what I am suggesting to you is whether we are wise in going at so rapid a gait. This call was made, as I stated, and as I understand it, for a purpose to which could hardly be attached this resolution. I am in favor, I say again, of the resolution, but I can readily understand how some of the brethren who were not here, and my Grand Lodge is not here in spirit, may question the propriety of acting in this matter in view of the wording of the call for this Conference; I want to make that clear to you. I am here personally in spirit, but I know that the dominant thought in my Grand Lodge is not today in favor of that resolution. I also know that if I can get them in favor of that resolution I am going to do it, but I am wondering whether if we take this action we can go to the lodges that are not here — I mean, the Grand Lodges that are not here — and tell them what we did,

and whether we will have the same results in getting them to see our way as we would if we had taken a more deliberate gait and had gone at it in a way which would give them an opportunity to feel that they were a part of this movement, that is, in its inception.

Now, I am not raising objection to the resolution at all. I am simply putting a big interrogation mark in my mind, at any rate, and I want to submit it to you, whether or not we can now afford to take all the time that is necessary for this very essential and very important movement,—a movement, as I say, which affects Masonry, to my mind in far greater degree than we may think. That is why I am for it.

I am wondering whether we ought not to take time enough to submit to them before we adopt this resolution, the things we are trying to do. I am not saying we ought or we ought not, but I want to ask you whether we ought or whether we ought not. I do not know. My judgment, from a superabundance of caution, indicates to me that we had better go a little slower. I may be all wrong. If I am, why, you just vote the other way.

But, brethren, I have an exceedingly strong sense that Masonry must keep step with the times. These are utilitarian times, and when these boys come back, they will say, "Why do you exist unless you are doing things," and they will say aright, for we have no right to exist and not to move, not to do things.

I am not saying Masonry does not do things well. She does. There is a radiance of Masonry in my home state and in your state. You cannot go into a lodge in Pennsylvania where Masonry does not mould the sentiment. It is the radiance of Masonry, for there is that radiance of Masonry just as there is a radiance of souls. But, when they come back they will say, "If Masonry cannot do things, why does Masonry exist," and I say it too.

We cannot let the dead hand govern Masonry as it governs over in Rome. It is the live hand that must govern Masonry and that is why I am for this resolution. But, I am for it so deeply and so strongly that I want to submit to you now the serious question, that I do not know and that is why I am asking you whether we are not going just a little too fast.

I appreciate the enthusiasm of youth. I know this chairman

of ours. He is fine. I will follow him anywhere. But I want you and him to think of what I am asking, to-wit, are we not going just a little too fast?

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Watres—pardon me, brethren, but he addressed himself a little bit to me and I want now to talk a little bit to him. I get you perfectly. I have “got your number” the same as you have got mine, and there is not so much difference in our ages after all, because your heart is just as young as mine is.

The point which you raise is exactly the one I had in mind in bringing this matter up tonight. I appreciate, in fact, I know that what we do here has got to go to our Grand Lodges. Now then, somebody has got to do this preliminary work of drafting this thing and mapping it out and blocking it out. When that has been accomplished, then it is up to us to consider it in the committee of the whole, so we may put it in shape where we can go back and advocate it just as you have suggested; and it is in the interests of having the greatest possible consideration given to this whole matter after the first draft of it has been brought out on this floor, in the committee of the whole, that I believe we should get started as quickly as we can so that we will have the maximum of time in which to thresh out the various points.

Perhaps you misapprehend my conception or I misapprehend yours, of the tenor of the resolution; but it seems to me by presenting this now and letting this committee get to work, because there was a threat issued here by one or two brethren that they would not sleep nights until they got this thing started,—that such being the case, if we can let them put in their hours of consideration, and then, as they make progress, bring it to us on the floor here, that we shall be in better shape and shall have more time to give consideration to it in the committee of the whole after its promulgation. In other words, the committee of the whole will have more chance to do things if we get this started now.

Have I answered your question?

Past Grand Master Watres: Pretty near, Most Worshipful Grand Master, but not quite.

Grand Master Schoonover: All right.



John Fishel
GRAND SECRETARY
Minnesota

George M. Stowe
GRAND MASTER
Minnesota

Wm. N. Kendrick
GRAND MASTER
Minnesota

Robert E. Evans
P. M.
Nebraska

Ambrose C. Epperson
GRAND MASTER
Nebraska

John A. Ehrhardt
P. M.
Nebraska

Arthur C. Wherry
S. O. W.
DEAN

MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE



Past Grand Master Watres: As I understand it, this morning we voted informally; it was not to bind anybody. I was willing to be bound this morning if binding was in order, but nobody was bound. I thought it wise to do that; we should not be bound. But now, as I understand it, and maybe I do not understand it, the purpose is to button it up, sew it up and hem it up and tie it up, and then go to the lodges that are not here and say that we have done so and so, and why do you not come along? Now, I question that. That is all.

Brother William C. Prime (New York): Brother Chairman, may I say just a word?

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Prime.

Brother Prime: I think it is quite true, as Brother Watres has said, that the tenor of this resolution is broader, and while possibly the adoption of it does not amount to a commitment—and in my judgment it does not—it may be a reason to suggest that it would be a great pity if in getting together for the purpose of unity in order to accomplish something for war work we should postpone getting together for the purpose of future work after this war which is now over except for the aftermath of war. There are calamities such as Halifax and such as San Francisco which have occurred and for which this organization is providing. If any of the forty-nine Jurisdictions which are not represented here should have a calamity within its borders and this work is handled by only twenty-two Jurisdictions and all the others stay out, and their territory, or some of it, is in a zone which is not represented when that calamity occurs, it is beyond thinking that we will not help them, and contribute to them. But they will be jolly well ashamed to have stayed out, although we will help them nevertheless. And their own sentiment, their own public sentiment, and public opinion which has been referred to today, will certainly whip them into line if there is any need of any whipping into line.

It seems to me that that should be the spirit of this enterprise, and it should be constructive. It is perfectly true that this resolution binds nobody to anything excepting a principle of action.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Mr. Chairman, it sort of seems to me it is about time to hitch up the band wagon and let

those who want to, get on, and let us show them there is a band wagon for them to get on; and if they do not want to get on today, perhaps they will tomorrow or ten years hence, in any event the band wagon will be ready. (Applause.)

Past Grand Master George Lawler: Brother Chairman, as the mover of this motion, I probably should have started out with some affirmative statement, but I was very glad to have the great big question mark presented first. We are all, in more senses than one, facing an uncharted sea, in business, in religion, and in politics, as well as in Masonry. Everywhere new starts must be made, and it is up to us; we are the fortunate men who have the opportunity to launch some scheme by which Masonry can be united into a single great force.

I am willing to be one of this body to launch this new ship on new waters and take my chances that it will meet the approval of the whole fraternity. (Applause.)

(Cries of "Question.")

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the adoption of the resolution as read.

Past Grand Master John A. Ehrhardt: Most Worshipful Grand Master, unfortunately, under the present management of the railroads of the United States I got here late and missed many good things. I do not know what my status is in this organization; whether I am like a representative from a territory, that I have a voice and no vote; or whether I have a voice and vote; or whether I should not be heard at all. I do not know what my status is in this organization. If you will tell me where I am at, as the gentleman from Washington said, it will help me out.

Grand Master Schoonover: I stated this morning, Brother Ehrhardt, that I had assumed the right in this instance to call a conference of Masons. That I did not, when I called it, dare call it an American grand conference, but I called it a Masonic conference, and you wear the badge of it. We are here by virtue of the invitation extended to the Grand Masters of the various Jurisdictions to come here and to bring with us the men of thought in our Jurisdictions to consider the fraternity called "Freemasonry."

So when you came here, my brother, you came as one of a

group of brethren gathered together from over the country in an emergency, to consider this great question which is before Freemasonry. It is not distinctively a Grand Masters' conference, as I stated this morning, although it is to them I have looked practically altogether for guidance in the selection of the men who should be brought here; and you are here as one of those. You have a vote on any question that is presented, except as we may determine to vote by states upon some subject or other. Have I made myself clear?

Past Grand Master Ehrhardt: You have. Thank you. I would like to say as to my position in the matter that I am speaking simply my own sentiments when I say that I cannot agree fully with the large body of this association in attempting to start this organization from the top instead of starting it from the bottom. It is putting the capstone on before we lay the foundation. I am simply suggesting that to my mind the better way would be to call a representative convention, representing all the Grand Jurisdictions, and let them come advisedly with the clear cut proposition of organizing a society of the kind you are talking about now.

My thought is that this matter should first go to the lodges, and let them send their representatives to a meeting such as this, and we will know then whether the fraternity as a whole want an organization of this kind, or whether we simply want it.

I will say simply for myself that I am opposed to the resolution as submitted at this time.

(The question was called for.)

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the formal adoption of the resolution which was read this morning, and has since been read again.

Past Grand Master Scudder: It is adopted, Most Worshipful Grand Master, if it is adopted at all, as an expression of principle. Let that be understood.

Grand Master Schoonover: Certainly. I will amend my statement to that effect, that the question is on the adoption of the principles involved in this resolution.

(The question was called for and being put to a vote by show of hands, the resolution was adopted.)

Grand Master W. S. Farmer: Mr. Chairman, ought we not

to know what Grand Jurisdictions oppose and what Grand Jurisdictions are in favor of the resolution? With that in mind, I ask that the roll be called, or that a rising vote be had.

Brother William C. Prime: I second the motion.

Grand Master Schoonover: If there is no objection, the roll will be called by Grand Secretary Newton R. Parvin (Iowa).

(The roll was called, resulting in the following vote:)

Delaware—Aye.

Florida—Aye.

Idaho—Aye.

Illinois—Aye.

Iowa—Aye.

Louisiana—Aye.

Maryland—Aye.

Michigan—Aye.

Minnesota—Aye.

Montana—Aye.

New York—Aye.

Nebraska—Aye.

North Carolina—Aye.

North Dakota—Aye.

Oklahoma—Aye.

(When the state of Pennsylvania was called, Brother Watres responded as follows:)

Past Grand Master Watres: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I am not authorized to vote on that resolution for the Grand Master of Pennsylvania or the Grand Lodge.

Personally, I vote for it.

Rhode Island—Aye.

South Carolina—Aye.

South Dakota—Aye.

Tennessee—Aye.

Utah—Aye.

Washington—Aye.

Grand Master Schoonover: The vote by states is unanimous.

Past Grand Master Robert E. Evans: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I would like to ask, if possible, that this committee frame its report that it may be in our hands at the earliest

moment, so that we may have copies of it to read instead of listening to the reading of it.

Grand Master Schoonover: That is the intention. If we cannot do it in printed form, we will put all the stenographers we have on it, so that we can get it to you in typewritten form.

Brethren, as I understand it, the resolution now before the body is that a committee of five be appointed. Is that your resolution, Brother Grady?

Deputy Grand Master Henry A. Grady: Yes; I renew that motion now.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Grady now renews his motion that a committee of five be appointed. How?

Deputy Grand Master Grady: By the chair.

Grand Master Schoonover: (Continuing). To draft a skeleton constitution for the consideration of this body in committee of the whole.

(The motion was seconded by Deputy Grand Master Robert H. Robinson, New York.)

Grand Master E. Tudor Gross (Rhode Island): Mr. Chairman, I would like to move an amendment, that the chairman of this Conference be chairman of that committee, if he will.

Brother J. L. Michie (South Carolina): Ex-officio.

Grand Master Schoonover: I am not a lawyer, but your motion was not seconded. The question then is on the adoption of the resolution, that the chair appoint a committee of five to draft a skeleton constitution for this proposed organization.

(The question was called for and the motion being put to a vote by show of hands, it unanimously prevailed.)

Grand Master Schoonover: I will appoint as chairman of that committee Brother Townsend Scudder, Past Grand Master of New York. (Applause.)

As another member I will appoint Brother Henry G. Vick, Grand Master of North Dakota.

Brother Louis Block of Iowa.

Brother L. A. Watres of Pennsylvania.

Past Grand Master Watres: No.

Grand Master Schoonover: You are for it individually, you have committed yourself that you are going to fight for it,

and we want you to have something that you can conscientiously fight for, because, Brother Watres, I know you.

Let's see, I have one more vacancy. Let me think for a moment, brethren.

Past Grand Master Watres: You think twice while I say this: You make a mistake in appointing me on that committee. I do not want to resign anything; I will shirk nothing; I am unafraid. But let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, you know, and I want these brethren to know, that with the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge the dominant thought therein is not in favor of it at the present writing. I would rather go there not as a committee man and say what I have to say to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and I believe that is good judgment.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Yet if I wanted to get something out of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, I know just the man to whom I would go, and entertain no doubts of the result.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, anything that Brother Watres says to us can be taken at one hundred per cent par, and I know it. I am going to pay him the compliment, because I know his good will is with us, of accepting his resignation and I will bet you a four dollar dog that he will be with us stronger than ever. (Laughter.)

I am going to appoint Grand Master Charles C. Homer, Jr., of Maryland; and Brother Henry A. Grady of North Carolina as the remaining two members on that committee.

Now, let us see if we have it geographically about right. We have New York, Maryland, North Carolina, North Dakota and Iowa. Brethren, I believe that that is a satisfactory representation, geographically.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Mr. Chairman, if I can be of any service, I will very gladly serve, but I have to lay down a condition, and that is, if I am asked to serve them I must have the coöperation of my brains personified in Brother Prime.

Grand Master Schoonover: Your rooms are very close together, you are sleeping close together, are you not; there has no law been passed here, as I see it, which prevents Brother Scud-

der from going into the other rooms and picking up the remnants of his brains and bringing them together. (Laughter.)

But, brethren, I would not even bring a smile except it is getting a little late, and it is time for us to go to bed with a smile on. I think it has been absolutely demonstrated to every man here that that appointment is deserved by virtue of close and intimate knowledge of the conditions, and also by the splendid exhibition we saw here this afternoon of the manner and the tact with which Judge Scudder can handle any proposition that is put up to him. I draft him for this service.

Past Grand Master Scudder: At what time do we assemble tomorrow morning, Mr. Chairman?

Grand Master Schoonover: It occurs to me that in order that the committee just appointed may have a maximum of time for the consideration of the problem, and still give us a fairly full day to discuss all of their report in so far as they will be prepared to bring it in, it might be well for us not to make the hour earlier than eleven o'clock, perhaps, tomorrow morning. That will also give us an opportunity, perhaps, to get this matter typed so that we can give all the delegates copies.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Then, brethren, let it be understood that all those who feel they can help this committee in the important work they have before them, if they will kindly come forward and give us the benefit of their ideas, we will all be greatly indebted.

Grand Secretary Stockwell: Cannot we sing "America" before we adjourn tonight?

Grand Master Schoonover: Can you lead us, Brother Stockwell?

(The conference joined in singing "America.")

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, I have one more word: If you will remember, when I first sent you a letter, I told you that a meeting such as I wanted to see held, would be in fact a prayer, and I want to lead you myself now, in a prayer:

Father of mine, whom I love and trust, I want now to make good with those boys who have gone across to fight my battles for me. I want to make good with those who have gone and will

not return. I want to make good with those who have gone and will come back to us in tatters,—wrecks of men. I want to make good with those brethren of mine who have gone across, who will come back and will look me in the eye. I want to make so good with them that they will not be ashamed of me.

Can we all say Amen to that?

(There was a unanimous response of "Amen.")

(Whereupon the Conference at 10:30 P. M., November 26, 1918 adjourned until 11 o'clock A. M., November 27, 1918.)

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

November 27, 1918, 11 O'clock

Promptly at 11 o'clock A.M. Grand Master Schoonover called the meeting to order.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, let us come to order. Our Committee is in session and has been since rather early this morning. They have already sent word to us that their deliberations are going to take them up to the noon hour. Now, because of the fact that Brother Prime is working with them and some of our other brethren have been called into their meeting in order that there may be a full representation of ideas, we are here waiting upon their deliberations.

We have with us this morning two Grand Masters who were not present yesterday, and I am going to introduce them to you by asking them to get up. In the first place, Brother Kendrick of Minnesota has come here, and here he is.

(Grand Master Kendrick arose, being greeted with applause.)

He is the only Grand Master in the United States who is here wearing the uniform of the American Army. I want to tell you a little something about this. I know this brother very well, intimately, in fact. He and I have been discussing problems such as we have here before the Conference, for a matter of two or three years. Brother Kendrick is one of those men who, because he saw an outlook which to him appeared more or less hopeless, felt that he could only do justice to his own conscience by getting into the fight himself, and that is the real secret of why he is wearing the uniform. We ought to honor him for it. (Applause.)

We also have with us Brother Morris, of Oklahoma, who came in this morning. Is he here, or is he in the ante-room?

Past Grand Master Anderson: He is not in the room just now.

Grand Master Schoonover: He will be; he is in the build-

ing. Perhaps it would be a very nice thing if we could have Brother Treat find him and bring him in, so as to let us get a look at him and know what his visage is like.

We are very fortunate to have here in Cedar Rapids a Brother with sufficient enthusiasm and good will towards myself personally and our brethren, that he has spent the greater part of the night, himself, with some of his helpers, in getting ready for us these printed minutes which we will be able to take home with us.

Brother Morris, of Oklahoma, is standing in the West, Brethren. (Applause.) We want to extend to him a special greeting, and tell him of our satisfaction that he was able to come here and sit with us.

Grand Master Morris (Oklahoma): I thank you, Brother Schoonover.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, I think it is opportune at this time, despite the fact that part of us are engaged in committee work, that the rest of us should have the benefit of a very pleasant opportunity. We have with us today, as we had yesterday, the brother who is the real inspiration of this meeting, so far as I am concerned, because it was his letter, formulated in France, in connection with the Masonic Club at St. Nazaire, that had a great deal to do with making me explode.

I think it will be a great pleasure for us all to have him now come forward and tell us something of the conditions which they met in France, which caused them to appeal to the Masons of America, in some way, if possible, to do something that would project the influence of our fraternity across the water and give them the benefit of it.

I take great pleasure in introducing to you Captain Cook, who has been invalidated home but who is a pretty good man yet as we shall very soon see. (Applause.)

Grand Secretary W. L. Stockwell: May I say, Mr. Chairman, that he was late of Minnesota, but is now a resident of North Dakota. (Applause.)

Capt. Charles I. Cook: Most Worshipful Grand Master, and members of the Fraternity: This is my maiden appearance in an assembly of Most Worshipful Grand Masters, and the task

that has been assigned to me seems to be the most gigantic one that I ever tackled in my life. While I was for a time instructor at the gas school in France, I do not believe I brought a sufficient amount of that stuff home to be adequate for the demand that will be made upon it today. (Laughter.) Gas is all right in its place, but I did not store enough over there.

In the first place, I want to recognize the great favor that has been extended to me through Grand Master Schoonover by an invitation to be present here and help in any way that I can in the consummation of those things which I believe will be of great benefit, not only to the Masonic members of France, but to the advancement of the Masonic fraternity at home.

I also want to recognize the favor that has been extended to me by Grand Master Vick of North Dakota in giving me a place upon the North Dakota delegation.

In the third place, I want to recognize the splendid reception that has been accorded me, not because of my own personal merit or anything that I have done, but because of the unanimity of feeling which is generally accorded the uniform of the United States. (Applause.)

The Grand Master, in his opening address, referred to the party who hung the lantern of Masonic light in the rooms at St. Nazaire, and in a sort of a way intimated that I was responsible for it, and gave me much more credit than was my due in that respect.

In this connection, I might perhaps repeat a story that was told me by a Canadian sergeant who was wounded and afterwards sent out of the service, and which illustrates to my mind to a very large degree some of the justices and also the injustices that creep in through the recognition of some and the omission of others who are equally important in the work.

In the trenches one night the pal of this sergeant was very seriously wounded and his commanding officer ordered that he and another one of the company carry this wounded man from the trench back to the ambulance so that he might be taken to the evacuation hospital for attention and treatment. The sergeant immediately notified the commander that he knew where there was a vacant building close by, and he thought he could

get the door off of that building on which to put the man who was wounded, so that they could carry him back much more comfortably. He sneaked out of the trench under fire, went across, got the door, brought it back into the trench, and the two of them put the wounded man on the door and carried him out of the trench, which was not a real easy job, for the reason that the trenches are not very wide, and the traverses which you have to go around necessitated holding the man up overhead; but they finally got him out, and after going a portion of the way back to where they could meet the ambulances, the man on the front end of the door was wounded. The explosion of a shell got him, but the ambulances had got close enough so that they saw the plight they were in, and they came up and took the man off the door. The sergeant immediately took this wounded man up, got his arm around his neck, and carried him back and placed him in the ambulance. After he had gotten him into the ambulance, he sneaked back into the trench, under fire, and went through that and several other battles before he got his. Then the bullet came along with his name on it, and he went to the hospital.

The next morning after he got into the hospital, lying in the ward there, who should come in to pay him greetings but the man who had carried the front end of that door, and on his breast he carried the Croix de Guerre as a recognition of the efficient work he had done that night in a personal way. "Now," he said, "I have got a grouch against the government. I went into that work honestly and did what I could and did all I could, but," he said, "how in hell did I know which end of that door to get hold of?" (Laughter and applause.) One end of the door brought the Croix de Guerre; the other end brought no recognition whatever.

Well, I did what I could in my humble way while in France, yet there are others over there who are more responsible for the outcome and success that has attended the Masonic effort at St. Nazaire than I am myself.

While we were in this country in the different cantonments, we had every facility to associate with the Masonic fraternity. The adjoining city was very courteous in opening the doors to

everything we desired to do, and extended a very hearty and social welcome to every one of the Craft, which was quite generally accepted. When we got into France, for a time we were so busy with our own affairs that we did not have even time to think of Masonry or anything of the kind. The forty-first division of which I was a member was put in as a replacement or depot division and almost every single minute of the time of both officers and men was slated in such a way that it was impossible to even get the amount of rest, for the first few days or the first few weeks, that was necessary for the best work of the men. After awhile we got things straightened out, got them to going in a sort of a routine way, and we had a little more time.

I was located in what was termed the fifth district of the forty-first division, in the little town of Selles-sur-Cher. We had a splendid Y. M. C. A. there, and we finally got around to holding little Masonic meetings on Sunday mornings, through the assistance of the secretary, in an upper room of a building that he had for the Y. M. C. A. The only thing we could do was to sit down and have our little Masonic talk and indulge in our little personalities and such things as that. We had no place for meetings of any kind, and we did not go there with any intention of organizing a club. However, after we got the work fairly well straightened out there and they commenced to move me from place to place, in each one of the places I used to go into, I made inquiry for a Masonic club, and it was not until along about on the 10th of May this year that I found in any single place that we had a Masonic club.

The State of North Dakota had granted a traveling charter to the 164th Infantry, which was formerly the old First North Dakota, and they carried that charter, of course, with them through the war, and after they got to France the headquarters of that regiment were located at Bordeaux, with one battalion, I think. The second battalion was scattered along the line of communication from there to Havre, while the third battalion was scattered from Southampton, England, to Liverpool. So they were not really in good shape to do very much work.

The only other organization I know of that carried a charter was the 163rd, which was the infantry regiment from Montana.

The headquarters of that organization, and one battalion, were stationed at St. Nazaire, and we used to hold meetings there on Saturday night in a little school house that we had the privilege of occupying above the hospital.

While we are talking about that, we had Selles-sur-Cher, Noyres, St. Aignan, and Chateau there, a district that covers perhaps sixteen or eighteen miles, and comprised of perhaps eighteen to twenty-two thousand people. We only found one living French Mason in the whole district and he was the only one any of us were able to discover there. There were no lodges and, of course, no Masonic affiliations; at Blois this year I found there was a club organized there. I never happened to get into the town on the night on which the club held a session. The boys were very busy. Blois is an officers' training camp and they did not have the time to give to Masonic work of any kind. The club was only open on such evenings as a majority of the men and officers could get away and attend the session of the organization. I never happened to get there on the night this session was held.

The first time that I was there, they had a little room down town that they were using. The second time I was there they had given that up absolutely as a failure, and were cleaning one room out at the barracks up at the Carsene and using that on such nights as they could get together.

Down at Tours I heard a great deal of a Masonic club, but I never have been able to get in touch with any one who could give me any direct information as to that club although I have been in the city a great many times. From outside sources we heard frequently of the work the club was doing at Tours; they have officers, I think a secretary, and were trying to combine that with a room or suite of rooms which had been taken over by the officers of the general headquarters.

Tours is the general headquarters of the Army in France, and there is a very large number of officers at that point. They have secured in the heart of the city somewhere a suite of rooms. The Masons there were trying to make arrangements so they could occupy that suite of rooms or a portion of them at certain times, but I never had the privilege of attending one of the Masonic meetings there.

Along the latter part of May or the first of June I was sent to St. Nazaire, Base Section No. 1, and one of the most important points we have in the army service in France, I think. Besides being the big port of entry, we had there one of the big base hospitals; we have in that territory usually somewhere from 75,000 to 90,000 American troops, located in that section most of the time.

There are troops constantly coming and going that pass through, and also the men who are on the different ships which come in there to stay during the period of unloading. The port was built from a very small commercial port, to a basin which now has fifteen large docks, well equipped with everything that can facilitate the matter of loading and unloading. We can put fifty large vessels in there and unload them all at one time. We keep about 7,000 stevedores there, who do nothing else but work on the unloading of vessels night and day. There is not an hour in the day but that the work of unloading the vessels is going on.

It is also headquarters for part of our railroad detachment. Besides the work at the front, the United States Army has revolutionized and rebuilt France. There is not a port of entry in France that we have not made over and made adequate for the work that is necessary by the American Forces in their occupancy of France.

At Bordeaux practically the same work of reconstruction has been performed as there has been at St. Nazaire. Railroads made from American steel, put down with American labor, equipped with American cars, drawn by American engines and now operated by American men cover France or at least that portion of France which is occupied by the United States troops. We go from our base sections clear to the front and are constantly keeping up with the line of advance by the extension of our railroads, so that we can transport all our goods from any port we desire to any place we desire.

Four miles out of St. Nazaire we have one of our big storage houses or supply depots at Montoir. We have eighteen miles of tracks running among the buildings used for storage purposes, so you can understand something about the amount of storage property we have at that place.

Further up the line and at a more convenient place for radiation, we have one of the largest store houses in the world, I think, at Geves. Besides the storage proposition there, we have erected an ice plant where we manufacture 500 tons of ice each day for hospital use. We have a capacity there for the cold storage of 800 tons of meat a day, and if one of you gentlemen were to go into Geves and go through the storehouses and see the quantities of all kinds of things put in there, you would almost believe that the entire production of the United States for the last two years had been dropped into that particular place. The pile is almost unbelievably large. On the 15th of August, I think it was, the head of the S. O. S., or Service of Supply, told me that if another vessel did not touch France for a period of three months, we had enough material of all kinds and description, food and clothing, to maintain and keep the American force of 2,000,000 men working up to efficiency for a period of three months. (Applause.)

So that is part of the work which has been done over there outside of the work that has been done at the front. When I went into St. Nazaire, which was established as one of the first ports and first landing places of United States troops, I expected to find there, of course, some Masonic activities, but search as I might I could not find them. I ran across hundreds of Masons, some of whom said they were new there the same as I was. Others said they had tried to do something and could not. Some others were a little mite indifferent and a little mite inclined to pass up to the American members the responsibility which they thought rested on them. They said, "We have no time to do this Masonic work over here; why don't the American members send us over somebody and help us out? We go up and down the street here; the K. C. sign is flaunted in our faces; splendid rooms are provided for their people, and we do not see why the United States Masons cannot get over here and do something, too."

It was not always pleasant to go into a K. C. building over there because the kind of salve you got in there was rather an irritant than a balm to the feelings of a real good Masonic man. We preferred that brand of medicine that was manufactured and known only to the Masonic fraternity.

It happened that one of my first acquaintances in St. Nazaire, outside of those with whom I was constantly in touch and associating with, was Sergeant Dupras of the Secret Service. He was on the dock a great deal and I made his acquaintance there. He, like myself, was very enthusiastic over the subject of Masonry. We had some hours together on the dock and formulated a plan which we thought would result in some good, if we could put it into operation. We got five of the boys together and held two or three little meetings, and, because of our ignorance, we sent a number of cablegrams to the United States for information.

Whenever I got into Masonic trouble, I always sent to Brother Stockwell, Grand Secretary of North Dakota; he has always been able to give me those directions necessary, and I immediately wired him for instructions as to how best we could fix this thing up, and he came back with the proper recommendation.

We thought when we first started that it was going to be possible to organize over there in such a way that we might possibly do some Masonic work, but after we had given the question more mature thought discovered that that was a little out of the question. We knew that we did not have Masonic affiliations of any kind; in fact it was pretty hard to find a Mason in France, that is, a French Mason. France is almost entirely Catholic, and I will recite an incident after a while which will show you something of a Masonic standing in the community.

After three or four meetings we decided we would hold a banquet and invite all the Masonic members in the Base Section whom we could get word to, to attend that banquet and use that as the foundation for the formation of a club. We went with the little committee we had, five of us, down to the Hotel Commercial, and arranged for this banquet. Everything was lovely; the price was satisfactory; the stuff that we wanted served was available, and they were very courteous and kind, and offered to do everything that we asked them to do. We went away after the arrangement had been made, very much pleased with the arrangement which we thought we had made.

The banquet was to be held on Wednesday. Monday on the way down town the proprietor of the Hotel Commercial met me and told me, in his French way, the best he could, that the ban-

quet for Wednesday was all off; that it would be impossible to serve us at that time. I could not talk very much French, and I hunted up Sergeant Dupras, who was a Frenchman although American born, and who talked the language. I got him and went up to discover what the trouble was.

After we sifted it all out it was simply this, that we were Masons and he absolutely refused to serve a banquet to Masons. They shut the door and we had to look elsewhere for some place to hold our banquet.

We finally secured one up on the point some two miles out of town, a very nice little place. We held the banquet at which there were ninety-one or ninety-two Masons present.

Base Port No. 1 had been occupied at that time for over a year, and I discovered at that meeting that there had been several different attempts made during the year, to secure the organization of a Masonic club. For some reason or other they had failed. Some of the boys were so pessimistic over it that they got up at the banquet and told me plainly that we might just as well drop the subject then as any other time, because it could not be done. Inquiring the reason why, they said in the first place that there was no place in St. Nazaire that the Masons could occupy as a Masonic body. Even though the building was standing vacant, it would not be rented under any circumstances to a body of Masons if they discovered what it was going to be used for, and without some place to meet we might just as well let the proposition go.

After discussing it for some time, I did not like to give up a thing I started, and particularly where there was so much help which could be secured from the number of Masons we had in that base section. So I told them we were not going to give it up, and were going to go through with it, and if we could not find a place in which to meet, I would make a "midnight" requisition, we would go out and get the lumber and find a vacant lot some place in St. Nazaire and we would put up a Masonic Temple! (Applause.) We would build it in the night and have it ready for the next night's work. The boys agreed to do that, said they would all help.

On the following Tuesday night we were given a room at the

Y. M. C. A. in which to hold our meeting and perfect an organization. There were something like 140 members at that meeting, and I discovered for the first time that there were some six or seven different clubs that had been organized at the different camps at various times and there was one in the 17th Engineers in existence at that time.

I also discovered that they had organized a Masonic club, known as Base Section No. 1 Masonic Club, and had gone so far as to elect all their officers, but after the adjournment of the first meeting, in which the officers were elected, another meeting was never held. I told them we thought we could go through with this proposition in spite of the conditions which existed. Brother Jerome, secretary of the Y. M. C. A. in the 17th Engineers' Camp, was president of the club which was operating then at that place, and I nominated him as president of the club we were then organizing which was afterward known as the Masonic Club of Base Section No. 1. I was fortunate enough to be elected vice-president of the organization and we got Brother Dupras in as secretary. We held a very successful meeting that night, had a splendid time, and the next day Brother Dupras and I went to combing the town for a place in which we could hold our Masonic meetings. We were fortunate enough to get a room over the American Cafe, down on the Plaza, a place about twenty-two or twenty-three feet wide by about sixty feet long. It was nicely furnished and well ventilated, easy of access, and we secured a contract for the room immediately for a year's service. We got it for a hundred francs a month, and we were very fortunate indeed in getting as good a place as we did.

On the next Tuesday night we met at the Y. M. C. A. and went down in a body to the first little Masonic home that we had in France, I think.

We went to work, appointed our committees that night, and it happened that we were just getting nicely started when Brother Jerome was called away; it was uncertain whether he would ever get back to that place and the temporary management of the club devolved upon me. I got together a splendid executive committee, Dr. Ferguson who has charge of Base Hospital No.

1, also one of his able assistants, Dr. Murphy, and three other brethren, and we went to work at what we thought would best serve the Masonic brothers abroad. We tried to fix the club up nicely so that it would be a meeting place for all.

We could not keep it open in the day time because we could not get away from our several occupations during that time, but there was somebody who would volunteer to go down and we would keep it open every night and all day Sunday. We tried to arrange the matter in such a way that it would be of the greatest advantage to every one of the Masonic fraternity abroad. During the study of that proposition came the idea of what best could be done, and out of the study we gave to it we formulated the letter which we hoped afterwards to send to all the Grand Jurisdictions of the United States.

We found in a very short time we did not begin to have the time to attend to Masonic activities that we desired. In the first place, Base Section No. 1 is a large place. The hospital is there; the camps cover quite a little ground, there is an infirmary at each one of those camps; the constant going and coming of those men through that base port prevented us from beginning to come anywhere near doing anything like justice to the Masonic activities. This is the reason why we have asked the brethren of the United States to send us a secretary who would devote his entire time to the Masonic activities over there.

We discovered that a number of the boys who had been wounded or taken sick had died, been carried out of Base Hospital No. 1 and buried in the little cemetery of St. Nazaire and no one discovered that they were Masons until after their effects were being rummaged through after they had been buried. After we got started we had the pleasure of watching after that and assisting a number of the boys who were sick. One boy died, and we had a member there who wrote his last letter home and it was our pleasure to give to him everything we could in the last rites. The secretary also notified his people of his death and we notified his lodge as to what had been done and how it had been done. You can perhaps imagine the letter of appreciation we got from his people.

There are a number of things which should have attention

in each one of those big camps over there which are now absolutely neglected. There is no place that a Mason likes to go so well as into a crowd or gathering where he can get that atmosphere of Masonic fellowship, and we cannot do it over there. We have asked our brothers at home for more than money; we want the help of men who can give their entire time to the Masonic activities in these different base sections. We can take up collections of our own over there, if necessary, and pay all of our own expenses, but we haven't the time. We are in the service of the United States and the duties which devolve upon us absolutely prevent taking the time necessary for Masonic activity.

We have suggested a plan to the brethren here in our letter, that they have a secretary with plenary power to be located in some central city of France, who is to direct the activities of the Masonic body. He could locate secretaries in such other places in France as the membership and work might seem to justify — all to report to him — and formulate a general plan whereby something can be done for nearly all the members.

What is necessary at the front I do not know, because I have not been up there enough to have any idea of what could be done. What is necessary at the recreation camps I do not know. The Y. M. C. A. and other people are doing a splendid work there, and whether there would be an opportunity for the Masonic fraternity to advantageously take up some work there, I do not know, but there is a large work for the Masonic fraternity in the camps where the boys are constantly at work and only have a few hours each day or every other day to get away, to make a place where they can have a little Masonic fellowship.

Before I left St. Nazaire we had a membership of something over 375. There is no question but that that membership is going to be over 500. The different vessels which come in there always bring in some new Masonic members, and they are tickled to death when they find we have a place which is called a Masonic home.

At one of our meetings we entertained the captain, officers and members of a truck company that came from California, which had arrived the day before our regular meeting. There

were 167 in that organization, and the first qualification for becoming a member of that organization was, "Are you a Master Mason?" If you were, you stood a good chance to get in; if you were not, you might just as well quit to start with, because there was no room for you. Every man in that organization was a Master Mason. There were constant inquiries from the boys who came over on the boats, their first question almost invariably on arriving at ports being, "Is there a Masonic club or association of any kind in the town?" At the last meeting which I attended there, there were six of the French Masons in attendance who asked us to set a time at which the French Masons of St. Nazaire might entertain the Masonic club. Just how that came out I do not know; I appointed a committee on that, and they went to work, but I left before the arrangements were perfected.

In the study of the situation over there and the things that would remedy it, we found that we had run up against a proposition in Masonic history for which there was no provision made. We finally settled down with a great deal of content, in doing what we could, with the expectation that long ere this the Masons of the United States would have evolved some way in which they could render us help. We found we had run up against an emergency for which there was no provision made in Masonic law. Just what is to be done with that is the proposition which has brought you gentlemen together. I trust that it is going to be perfected in such a way that there will be no necessity for calling other meetings — well, I do not know just exactly how to put this, but I hope it will be perfected in this meeting so it will take care of the future at least.

The boys over there are unadvised, to a large extent, as to why the Masons here have not done something for them. Of course, there is no Masonic affiliation in France for some of them. We have not attempted to, and even if we had been privileged to attend their meetings, I doubt if we would have gotten very much out of them in the first place, because we could not speak their language, and in the second place, their ideas and ours are not quite along the same line.

But I hope that before the closing of this session something

will be perfected so we can go over there and during the balance of the time that the boys are in France give them the assistance they need.

In conclusion, I want to say just this, that because of the cessation of hostilities, during the occupancy of France by the army of occupation, there is going to be a greater need for work of this kind in France, and wherever the American troops may be located abroad, than there was even during the intense times when the war was on and we were straining every nerve to put the army and ourselves in such shape that we could merit a position on the front line. They are going to have more time for relaxation, and that is the time of danger in the American camps. We want to provide some entertainment or some place where the boys may go that will throw around them an environment which is going to keep them clean and wholesome.

I feel that that thing is going to be done. We do not want it said by the boys when they come home from France, as was said in the Biblical phrase, the exact wording of which I am not entirely familiar with, but which runs something like this: "I asked you for bread and you gave me a stone." (Applause.)

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, we have a few minutes before lunch. I am going to ask Brother Kendrick if he has had opportunity to read the minutes of the session of yesterday, and if so, to give us in a brief way his impression of the progress we have made, if he thinks that it is progress.

Captain William N. Kendrick (Grand Master Minnesota): Mr. Chairman, and Brethren: I have not yet had that opportunity. I thought that I would take some time during the noon hour to get off by myself and read these minutes.

But there isn't anything, as your chairman knows, that I would not do to bring about a feasible plan of entering France with the Masonic clubs, or whatever you wish to call them, and doing something for our boys in the army.

As he has told you, in the last two years or more, he and I have talked these matters over and at times have been almost disgusted with ourselves, unable to see any way or see any plan that we thought was feasible; and I have letters now from boys in France who are my close personal friends, asking me,

as Captain Cook has said, why we do not do something about it?

As Grand Master of Minnesota, I have felt it and felt it keenly. I made the statement to our Grand Secretary yesterday that this feeling of mine was so strong that unless this meeting brought forth something, I was a convert to the General Grand Lodge idea.

I feel that our failure has been due to the fact that we have forty-nine separate Grand Jurisdictions, as you all know, and I think you all feel the same way, and that if we had had some central organization, it matters not what you may call it, at the beginning of this war, we would have taken our place among the other organizations and done something for our boys in the army. (Applause.)

I do not believe that any Grand Master, or any representative of this body or any other body that has been convened, needs to fear in going home to his Jurisdiction and presenting any feasible plan, that he will not get the backing he expects. I know from talking with the men of my own Jurisdiction, the officers of my own Grand Lodge and men throughout my state, from the letters I have received from others that I have had no chance to talk with personally, that all you have to do is to present to them some feasible plan and you will get all the money and all the support that you can possibly need. (Applause.)

I have no fear of presenting this, even though I do not expect to get back to my own Grand Lodge personally and expect to present it in a cold blooded address; but I hope that my Deputy Grand Master, who is an elective officer of Minnesota and will be the Grand Master of Minnesota next year without doubt, through his aid in supporting it personally, will see that Minnesota will affirm anything that this body will do. (Applause.)

Now, my brethren, I am going into the army myself, a belated entry, but not my fault. I started in June, was turned down two or three times, held up a couple of times by the adjutant general's office and a few other things, but I have finally been ordered out, and if there is anything I can possibly do inside to assist in this work, or any information that I can obtain and present to any committee or any body that this assembly may

organize, I shall be more than pleased to do it. And, if there is any work this committee sees fit to hand over to me, I shall attempt to do it to the best of my ability.

I came here, brethren, more to learn than to try to tell this assembly anything. I came here as much for the moral support of the man who is going to take over my work as Grand Master in Minnesota as anything, and I would like an opportunity to read over these minutes, and afterwards talk with some of the others who are the moving spirits of this assembly, and possibly then I can get some clear cut ideas upon which to base an address to my own Jurisdiction. But I have no fear of Minnesota's support of anything that this assembly may do. I thank you. (Applause.)

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, the engrossed copy of the resolution for Brother Past Grand Master Barry of Iowa is here, and as I understand it, is being signed. I do not know how many have signed it, but I hope all will sign it, inasmuch as it means what it was intended to mean. The flowers are here, and we shall have a committee to deliver them with the engrossed resolution to Brother Barry very shortly.

Grand Master Hugh A. McPherson: Mr. Chairman, may I suggest that at this time we take a little altar offering for the flowers, and will you permit me to be the first one to deposit an offering on the altar to take care of the flowers?

Grand Master Schoonover: You are the business manager of this resolution. (Laughter and applause.)

(An altar offering was then made, at the close of which the Conference at 12:15 P.M. adjourned to reconvene at 2:00 P.M., November 27, 1918.)

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

NOVEMBER 27, 1918, 2:20 O'CLOCK

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, let us resume our labors. The stenographers have done their work well, and we are ready to consider the report of the Committee on Constitution.

Brother Grady will now present that report.

Deputy Grand Master Henry A. Grady (North Carolina): Mr. Chairman and Brethren, I have been designated by Brother Scudder as the member of the committee to present its report.

I desire to say, brethren, that when we assembled in the library to consider this matter, we had absolutely nothing to go upon. Not a word had been written, nor a line penned. I took it for granted that perhaps some of the New York brethren had mapped out a plan for organization, inasmuch as they appeared to be so much interested in this matter, and were pioneers in this movement along with yourselves, but they had not.

You can see, brethren, that we were approaching a very difficult and delicate subject, one that has been discussed in the several Grand Jurisdictions of these United States, and concerning which there has been a lack of harmony in the past.

It has been our endeavor to fashion a Constitution which we thought would meet with the approval of all Masons in this country, and I want to say that the action of the committee was entirely harmonious, and that this paper I now desire to read met with the unanimous approval of the committee.

(The report of the committee was then read by Deputy Grand Master Grady, and is in the words and figures following, to-wit):

THE OUTLINE OF TENTATIVE PLAN OF ORGANIZATION OF THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, The several Masonic Jurisdictions in the United States of America have been invited to attend a Conference of Grand Masters at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on

the 26th, 27th and 28th of November, 1918, for the purpose of considering and taking action in respect of the present war emergency and the opportunity for Masonic service in connection therewith; and

Whereas, Twenty-two Jurisdictions have responded to said call, and fourteen Jurisdictions have expressed their approval, in general terms, of the purposes of said Conference, and have given assurance in writing, of their support through their respective Grand Masters; and

Whereas, It has been made clear to said Conference that the Masonic Fraternity will be enabled to render more efficient service to mankind and to fulfill its mission among men by bringing about a more perfect coöperation among the several Masonic Grand Jurisdictions of the United States; and

Whereas, It is apparent that there is a pressing need of Masonic service among the men with the United States forces overseas during the period following the signing of the armistice and peace and reconstruction, at home and abroad, the duration of which is wholly problematical; and

Whereas, The assembled representatives of Grand Lodges have by their unanimous expression agreed that the need for service is real; that the opportunity is present and compelling and that they unanimously desire to participate in and render a more satisfying service, and that to fail to take some affirmative action in this matter at this time will lead to irretrievable injury and impairment of the fraternity's future usefulness; and

Whereas, It is the sense of this Conference that plans be now tentatively formulated for effective service wherever, and whenever the opportunity and need to render the same shall be present; said plans to be submitted to the several Grand Jurisdictions for consideration and action thereon; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That there be organized the MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES, a voluntary association of Masonic Grand Jurisdictions of the United States of America, for Service to Mankind.

All Masonic Jurisdictions of the United States of America shall be entitled to membership therein on equal footing on expressing their approval of this Constitution and acceptance of the responsibility and privileges outlined therein. Any member shall be entitled to withdraw at any time on ninety days' notice provided it shall have complied with all of its assumed obligations. Such notice shall be delivered by registered mail to the Secretary at his post-office address.

OBJECT

The object of the Association shall be the Service of Mankind through education, enlightenment, financial relief and Masonic visitation, particularly in times of disaster and distress, whether caused by war, pestilence, famine, fire, flood, earthquake or other calamity; and presently and immediately ministering to, cherishing, comforting and relieving the members of the fraternity, their dependents and others engaged in the United States forces, in the present great war, wherever they may be stationed and upon whatever duties engaged in the service.

ADMINISTRATION

For the purpose of administration the United States is divided into departments as follows:

<i>The New England Division:</i>	<i>The Central Division:</i>
Connecticut	Arkansas
Massachusetts	Kansas
Maine	Kentucky
New Hampshire	Missouri
Rhode Island	Oklahoma
Vermont	Tennessee
<i>The North Atlantic Division:</i>	<i>The Corn Belt Division:</i>
New Jersey	Iowa
New York	Minnesota
Pennsylvania	Nebraska
<i>The South Atlantic Division:</i>	North Dakota
Delaware	South Dakota
District of Columbia	
Maryland	<i>The North Pacific Division:</i>
North Carolina	Idaho
South Carolina	Montana
Virginia	Oregon
West Virginia	Washington
<i>The Gulf Division:</i>	Wyoming
Alabama	
Florida	<i>The South Pacific Division:</i>
Georgia	California
Louisiana	Colorado
Mississippi	Nevada
<i>The Great Lakes Division:</i>	Utah
Ohio	
Illinois	<i>The Southwestern Division:</i>
Indiana	Arizona
Michigan	New Mexico
Wisconsin	Texas

Upon the occurrence of a disaster of greater magnitude than a local calamity, the Grand Masters of the several Grand Jurisdictions within the department, in which the said disaster shall occur, shall appoint a committee to survey the need, appraise it and report forthwith its findings to the department. The department shall thereupon take action on the report of the committee to the end that the fund necessary shall be provided and properly disbursed.

The Association may enter into correspondence and affiliation with similar agencies in other lands or under other governments, the better to teach the Fatherhood of God, and to promote the Brotherhood of man.

The powers and duties of the Association may be enlarged or curtailed from time to time; but no member Jurisdiction shall be bound thereby without its express assent.

Each department shall meet annually on a date and at a place to be fixed by it; or oftener if it shall so determine. A meeting may be called at any time on the request of three Grand Jurisdictions. A general meeting, of all departments, shall be held triennially on the eleventh day of November, or oftener on the call of ten Grand Jurisdictions. Notices of the time, place and object of the meetings shall be issued by the Secretaries.

At each meeting, departmental or general, a presiding officer shall be elected by ballot, for the purposes of the meeting. Each department shall select a Secretary whose duties shall be to keep the records and attend to the correspondence of the department.

The sole officer of the Association shall be the Secretary, who shall be selected at the general meeting, and shall hold office until the next general meeting, or during the pleasure of the Association, and his functions shall be purely clerical.

Brethren, the Constitution, if I may so call it, is before you. I want to say that since we assembled in this hall I have heard certain questions asked as to the machinery under which this organization will act.

I take it for granted that the by-laws of this organization are matters to be passed upon by the various Jurisdictions when they meet in a general session. We are merely here to outline a Constitution. The by-laws and the machinery under which the organization shall work are to be determined by the organization itself.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the Constitution.

Past Grand Master Lawler: Second the motion.

Grand Master Schoonover: It has been moved and seconded that the Constitution shall be adopted. Are there any remarks?

Past Grand Master Block: Mr. Chairman, there are several blanks in this draft which should properly be filled in before any further action is taken.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Could we not adopt it and then go back to the blanks and fill them in?

Past Grand Master Lusk: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the word "Jurisdiction" rather than "Member" should not be used? Would not the term "Jurisdiction" be more significant than the word "Member?" I suggest that on page 3 and wherever it applies the word "Member" be eliminated and the word "Jurisdiction" be substituted. It is in the fourth line on page 3.

Past Grand Master Block: You might add the word "Jurisdiction" after the word "Member."

Grand Master Schoonover: That is better.

Past Grand Master Evans: I would like to ask a question, referring now to page 4 and the first incomplete paragraph on the top of the page, which begins on the previous page. It refers there to the occurrence of a calamity greater than a local one and then provides that the Grand Masters of that department shall arrange for a survey.

Is that the only place in the Constitution in which they have provided for a method of finding out what is needed? What I refer to is this: The great object which is bringing us here is to provide a way for taking care of those who are entirely without this Jurisdiction. As I understand it, that is the real thing which has moved the heart of this body. What is your method of reaching it, under this Constitution as proposed? I am asking the committee because I may have overlooked it; you see, I have just read it over hurriedly.

Past Grand Master Scudder: If I may answer the brother, Mr. Chairman, the point to me seems admirably well taken. Of course, we had contemplated that so far as the present rule was

concerned, this body here would have to arrogate to itself in some way as individuals, not as Jurisdictions, the authority to go ahead. The very moment this becomes a real thing by its adoption by a sufficient number of Jurisdictions to make it a real thing, then by-laws will be formed which will take care of the question which the brother has raised.

That is the only way we knew how to treat it, for we cannot compel any of these Jurisdictions today to do anything. They have not met; they have not considered it; we have no power over them. They do possess some power over us from the standpoint of discipline. Until this is adopted by these Jurisdictions, this is a voluntary association made up of the membership here in this room, individuals exclusively, who take upon themselves the responsibility of going ahead; and we cannot go ahead any other way with authority. It is a sad situation, but it is a fact. We cannot bind our Jurisdictions. We can only express what is in our own hearts.

A resolution is to follow, and that resolution will provide that just as soon as a certain number—if my recollection is correct, the committee decided on fifteen—of Jurisdictions adopt this, that moment the child is born and that moment the fifteen will get together. Let us hope there will not be only fifteen, but that there will be forty-nine, and then the by-laws will be established and all this necessary machinery devised to accomplish the great end we have in view, to put ourselves in a position to render in an emergency efficient service.

I do not know how otherwise we can treat it. We can establish such rules as in our wisdom may seem meet and right to govern ourselves now, the unofficial body asserting this authority because there is need for action.

The whole thing, of course, that the brother refers to, or the major part of it at least, for a time will be outside of our borders, and that doubtless will invite a general meeting; it may invite another one. I think we men who have assembled here have got to be brave enough, strong enough and determined enough to assume the responsibility of the hour and to build a tentative organization in our own valor and conceit, for it is the principal need the fraternity has now, to present to the world what seems

to be at least a united front, and we hope and pray that the hope may find fruition, that public opinion will justify their course.

I do not know how else we can do it, because our handicaps are so great. For what have we right here, as a matter of fact? Nothing but the individual opinions of ourselves to show for what we have done, and the hope that our Grand Lodges may likewise see it as we see it, and ratify that which we do, and thereby make it their own.

So I think, my brother, unless perhaps you can offer a suggestion more expressive of the service to which you feel we should be limited it will have to stand as it is so far as the committee is concerned because we labored until we grew stale, we labored with this thing trying to meet the situation and yet not do the harm which some felt might be done. Now, in the particular light you bring to the situation, if you can mention a way we can meet the situation better, it certainly will be a great help to us and doubtless to the entire assembly.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Brother Chairman.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Grady.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: I hate to be on my feet so much, but no committee ought to be wedded to its report, and I am quite sure that the members of this committee are not only broad-minded enough to receive, but are glad to adopt, any suggestions that would improve the Constitution we have provided here.

I think, however, if my brother will read the object of this association on page three, that his objection will be covered. It says:

“The object of the Association shall be the Service of Mankind through education, enlightenment, financial relief and Masonic visitation, particularly in times of disaster and distress, whether caused by war, pestilence, famine, fire, flood, earthquake or other calamity; and presently and immediately ministering to, cherishing, comforting and relieving the members of the fraternity and their dependents and others engaged in the United States forces, in the present great war, wherever they may be stationed and upon whatever duties engaged in the service.”



MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE

the 1990s, the number of people with a mental health problem has increased by 50% (Mental Health Act 1983, 1990).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of people with mental health problems. The Department of Health (1999) has set out a strategy for mental health care, which includes a commitment to improve the lives of people with mental health problems. The strategy is based on the following principles: (1) to improve the lives of people with mental health problems; (2) to reduce the stigma and discrimination against people with mental health problems; (3) to improve the effectiveness of mental health services; and (4) to improve the support and care available to people with mental health problems.

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Now, naturally in case of a local disaster within the borders of the United States, it would have to be reported by the organization that first took cognizance of this disaster, first learned of it; and that clause that he has reference to only has in mind those things that occur here among our own people. When we want to do good abroad, as is contemplated in this section I just read, of course, that would be a matter for the organization itself to devise some ways or means by which to reach those people overseas. We could not possibly put in the Constitution a method by which that phase of the situation could be covered. That would be a matter for this entire body at its first meeting after this Constitution has been adopted to take care of as a matter of by-laws.

Past Grand Master Evans: Mr. Chairman, I do not want the idea here to get out among the brethren that I am criticizing. I am trying to get information, and as has been suggested by Brother Scudder, by inference at least, "fools sometimes rush in where angels fear to tread," and I want to be relieved of the responsibility of being deemed a fool.

But this is the situation as it has come to me, that our brethren from New York had as their problem for solution the creating of a machine to do the work. That is the problem they were trying to solve. This meeting is for the purpose of making the machine, and I believe that in the making of a machine to solve their problem you have instead of doing that made out to solve a small matter in Nebraska or in Michigan, and you have left the question of your machine to solve your big problem just where it was yesterday morning at ten o'clock.

It is proposed now, as I understand it, to make it a matter of by-laws to follow, to be created upon the moment, when the need comes, although the need is here now and recognized. If we can create a machine to take care of something in Iowa or in Nebraska or in New York, have we not the right to create a machine to take care of the man in France; and if we have the right to take care of him, if it has got to be suggested by by-law, why not make it definite now so when I go into the Nebraska body next June I can say to them, "There is the method of doing this." Why, if I take this proposed Constitution to

them, they will say, "But what are you going to do?" "I do not know. We will wait until the occasion comes and then we will create a body."

I am not criticizing; I am suggesting my difficulty when I get back home, and I wish to help if I know how.

My information has not been such as has that of our New York brethren who know what their problem is by having had it under consideration, and they know and can suggest now what it ought to be better than I, who know nothing of it. But I do think it would be wise for us when we go from here to be able to take in some concrete form something definite to the Grand Lodges which we represent.

It will not be accepted as an explanation to say to the members of a Grand Lodge "I cannot tell you how it will be fixed, but it will be fixed somehow."

I am not, as I say, criticizing, but simply suggesting for your consideration these thoughts that came to me upon the reading of this report of the committee.

Past Grand Master Scudder: I think the brother's suggestion and remarks are most helpful, and we are indeed grateful to him for calling it to our attention. I am going to ask him whether possibly he does not think this will meet it, because we have not, of course, been able to do the whole thing at once.

This is a general form or outline of a skeleton Constitution which we have presented, but it is our purpose, just as soon as we get to that business here in this Conference, to present to this Conference this problem which we have confronting us, as far as the other side is concerned, as a separate enterprise entirely outside of the provisions of this Constitution. We are going to tell you as we see it the need for work on the other side, and then we are going to ask you as individuals if you agree with us to authorize that work on the other side.

It is a different proposition, as we view it, and one which is to follow this, and the brother in calling our attention to it is rendering a great service because necessarily we cannot all look into the future and know it and see it all; and, in our enthusiasm to get together a something which could be our figure-head, we have overlooked the various subjects which this meet-

ing here will have to treat as separate and distinct subjects to be discussed and disposed of.

This convention's attitude and position thereon to be defined and its authority, in so far as individually it cares to give its authority, will all be exercised and brought into play in connection with what we now must do with reference to our duty overseas, and it is going to follow as soon as this matter is disposed of.

Past Grand Master Evans: May I ask you a question, Brother Scudder?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Yes, indeed, my brother.

Past Grand Master Evans: To see if I have gotten your thought. New York has already received permission, or thought that they had, to do this work?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Yes.

Past Grand Master Evans: That action has been approved and you intend now to carry the overseas work out as a complement or completion of that which you have started independent of this; and when you have adopted this Constitution, that, too, will be entirely separate? Am I correct?

Past Grand Master Scudder: That was our idea. They would be separate because what we may do overseas cannot bind our Jurisdictions any more than this can, and we thought there might be an element of danger, in saddling the overseas work onto our Jurisdictions, or they might assume we were so doing.

I think the brother states it correctly. It may not be the best way of going ahead; the brother may perchance remember that at the close of those dreary hours when I was on my feet here yesterday and when your patient attention was so sublime, I stated with reference to this overseas work how we felt we could carry it on perhaps independently if the President could see it our way, but if not independently, then we intended to carry it on under the auspices of another agency; and I then stated that that was another story which would be treated by another brother. We thought at that time, of course, and doubtless our thoughts would have been fulfilled had not the hour been so late, that that brother would come forward with

the overseas work and we could treat it all as one proposition; but unfortunately the hour was late, we were all tired and weary, and other matters of more importance came along and thus the subject became severed.

We do not feel that there has been as yet the discussion here of the ways and means of doing the overseas work, or sufficient discussion, at least, to enable us to treat it independently; and we feel that after we have disposed of this then we want to take up the overseas work and find out whether or not there is a common ground upon which we can unite and by our union create public sentiment which will invite our several Jurisdictions to join hands in it.

That, I think, should be made the next order of business after this is done, if, in the wisdom of the brethren here, the two can be kept separate. I believe if that is done there will be less complication.

Grand Master Schoonover: If I might say just a word; another thought occurs to me which the Judge, I do not think, touched upon.

This division was, in the first place, to cover the immediate demand, as Judge Scudder has suggested, in a thoroughly tangible and definite sort of way, and the presentation of this matter by reference to our Grand Lodges places us in a position so that we may never again be in such a lurch as we were in before. The division is up to you, brethren, of course, but I believe that it has been justified by Judge Scudder.

Past Grand Master Frank S. Moses (Iowa): Brother Chairman, Brother Scudder brought to our attention the fact that there might be an element of danger in presenting the matters referred to by Brother Evans and including them in this report. Brother Evans takes the stand that there would be a strong element in his favor, in favor of this proposition, in presenting it to his Grand Lodge. Is it not possible that in this present emergency which has called us together, whatever action is taken on the overseas work, can be later incorporated under the title of "Administration?"

It is stated as an object, but later could it not be incorporated under "Administration," as Brother Evans suggests?

Past Grand Master Louis Block: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that we ought to get this fact in mind plainly and clearly. Before a body can do anything, there must be a body to do it. In other words, we are laboring now to get ourselves born. We are trying to break out of the womb of time and just as soon as we have done that, then we have a body that can adopt and perfect a machine for its operations. But we have got to get the body first and that is what we are trying to do now.

I think one of the reasons why our committee did not incorporate this machine for this overseas work into this Constitution was that it was a machine; it was not a body. And if we put the machine into the body and make it a part of the body, the time might come when we would find we had made a mistake in the kind of a machine we had chosen, and then we would find ourselves burdened and afflicted with a machine which it would not be very easy to get rid of.

Now, if we get ourselves organized and get this body born, then we can take up as the very next order of business the machine which we think will be the most effective, and we can put that machine at work temporarily, at least; and then if in the future we find it does not tend to conserve or accomplish the purpose intended, we can kick it out onto the junk pile in the back yard and get a new one. I say, therefore, the first thing we ought to do is to organize, which we can do by means of the Constitution. I do not think that matters of administration, temporary expedients, or matters of ways and means ought to be mixed up in the plain proposition of organizing. Let us get organized, and when we are in existence, then we will be ready to take up the best machine that we can find.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Mr. Chairman, it would be out of order to offer this resolution now, but let me ask my brethren present if a resolution of this kind would not in some measure meet the demands that seem to be urged here, after the adoption of the Constitution proposed?

Resolved, That, in order to carry out and effectuate the objects specified in the Constitution this day adopted, and for the purpose of meeting the present need of service to the men overseas, a Committee of five be appointed, selected so far as possible according to their geographical

situation, which committee shall have in charge the entire work contemplated in said Constitution in respect to the men engaged in overseas duty.

“Resolved, Secondly, that said Committee be authorized to enter into immediate correspondence with the several Grand Jurisdictions accepting and adopting this Constitution; and in a general way to exercise the function of an administrative body, until a set of by-laws can be adopted for the government of the Association.”

Grand Master Schoonover: Does this suggestion clarify the atmosphere?

Past Grand Master Brockway: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that the matter has been made clear and plain to us that the overseas work must practically be done by the aid of the machinery which the New York commission has been laboring for six months to get started. It is not a self-starter, but they assure us they have now gotten the crank, and that it will start. That overseas work must be done, if at all, before this Constitution will have been ratified by more than a very few of the Jurisdictions which meet between now and next November. The majority of the Grand Lodges will hold their next meetings, at which the business of ratification will undoubtedly take place, from next June on until late next fall, and by that time the need for overseas service will probably largely have been done away with. Now, to incorporate into this Constitution a method of doing that overseas service, waiting for the Constitution to be ratified so as to become effective as a binding agreement upon the Grand Jurisdictions, is simply to postpone the possibility of overseas service until it would become too late to accomplish anything.

It seems to me, therefore, that the two propositions as suggested by Brother Scudder should be kept entirely separate and distinct, and the Constitution disposed of as a separate entity, the understanding clearly being and so stated in the document itself, that its existence as a valid, binding instrument will be effected only by the ratification of the several Grand Jurisdictions.

But the overseas service must be done, and the machinery for that has already been put in form so that all it needs is to turn the crank, and Brother Scudder seems to have his hand on

the crank and promises that it is going to be twisted, and that very quickly. The details of whatever plan he may have to suggest as to this Constitution are matters that it seems to my mind ought to be kept absolutely clear from this. The Constitution can take its turn with the Grand Lodges without any more work from this body at all.

Brother S. W. Williams (Tennessee): In listening to the reading of this Constitution, it occurred to me, and I find it is true in my mind, that it has been limited to the present great war, intentionally leaving out anything of the future.

It is my suggestion that the words "in the present war" be cut out, in the ninth line of that paragraph, and that it be amended so as to read as follows:

"Pestilence, famine, fire, flood, earthquake or other calamity; and presently and immediately ministering to, cherishing, comforting and relieving the members of the fraternity and their dependents and others engaged in the United States forces, in the present war or any other war."

There is no provision in this Constitution for taking care of any war in the future, in any way, shape or form. We have disclaimed here on the floor any idea of doing anything in the present war.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Williams, look in the fourth line.

Brother Williams: I know, but the great mass of moss-backs back of the Grand Masters everywhere will come in and say, "Here you say in the present great war," and that is a limitation to their minds and it will act in that way.

Grand Master Schoonover: I understand, Brother Williams, but there is a semicolon between the statements of the general object. This is for the Service of Mankind, whether caused by war, pestilence, famine, fire, flood, earthquake or other calamity.

Brother Williams: I understand that.

Grand Master Schoonover: The second part is really a second section of the object. It is the present and immediate object.

Brother Williams: And you disclaim any intention here, on the floor, of doing anything in the present war under this organization. It is to be done under a present organization which

is already trained, the machinery of which has been arranged, and of which Judge Scudder has his hand on the crank. That point having been brought out, the present great war is not in it, but if we want to say anything about the present great war, if we can get ready to do anything before it has already been cleaned up over there, that is all very well and proper, but do not let us cut ourselves out and lay the thing out in such a shape that it will be, to the lay mind (the backwoods fellow that catches on to an idea quickly and hangs to it and does not go into the depth of things) who will say that this thing is limited to the present great war, in which we do not propose to do anything, as the gentlemen before this Conference have said. What do you propose to do in the future? You are not doing anything. You have nothing to do with any future wars. You are limiting it to the present great war, and yet the gentlemen who have attended this Conference say that that is to be attended to by an organization which is already raised.

I simply submit it as a suggestion.

Grand Master Warlow: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I regard this Constitution as a marvel of simplicity and comprehensiveness. It is so simple I think we can all understand it, and I believe our mossbacks can. And I am not going to yield to anyone present in the number of mossbacks I can produce. (Laughter.)

I like that section particularly because while in the first part of the section it deals with the whole generally and in a manner which will be sufficiently comprehensive to last for all time, in the second part of it, it deals with our present necessity and will stand as a memorial of this occasion, and of the reasons which brought about the formation of this relief Association.

With regard to our brother who wants the machinery for carrying this out incorporated in the Constitution, I think he is making a mistake. When he goes before his Grand Lodge with this simple program which has been presented, there is nothing in it to which any one can take exception. It is so plain and so simple. When you get down to the details, there will be plenty of room for wrangling, but there is nothing to wrangle over in this. It is a plain demonstration that we want a comprehensive, general body to deal with a particular subject and the manner in

which it is to be dealt with is purely a matter of detail to be arranged afterward. In point of fact, even if we had no resolution following this one, our Constitution will provide that ten Jurisdictions or ten Grand Masters can call a meeting of the whole body, and if nothing else was done to-day, we know that as soon as ten Jurisdictions have adopted this Constitution, ten Grand Masters would immediately call that meeting and proceed to go to work.

I think we have the simplest job that could be put up to us in presenting that Constitution to our Grand Lodges, just as it stands. What resolution may follow, I do not know; I have not considered it after hearing that read. It may well fall down on that, in our Grand Lodges, but there is no excuse for falling down on this simple Constitution and that is the one we are to present to our Grand Lodges as one complete entity for their consideration. (Applause.)

Grand Master Epperson (Nebraska): Brother Grand Masters, the matter now under consideration would be of importance if we had no war at the present time, or if we had not just completed the war. It would have been of importance a year ago, and if it is not disposed of now in the early future as the result of the action of this Conference it would still remain a matter of importance, or might become such at any future time, and while I have no objection to the reference made in the proposed Constitution to the present situation, yet may we not as a matter of fact proceed more intelligently and come at it in a logical manner by first disposing of the questions with reference to the present needs?

After considering the proposition which it was suggested would follow the disposition of this, would it not be better to leave it as this refers to all times in the future, and to disasters that may arise at any time? And why not leave this until those things immediately pressing are disposed of?

Grand Secretary Stockwell: Most Worshipful Sir, I gather if this Constitution is adopted, then at another meeting called later there will be a fuller definition and elucidation of these matters which are hinted at here. Is that the idea, Judge Scudder?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Personally I do not know how

anything can be made any clearer, but whatever further light can be thrown upon the subject we ought to invite, of course. The matter to me seems so clear — it may not be all-comprehensive; I never knew the wisdom of the world to be centered in any few men, and I have no doubt after this has run the gauntlet of our several Jurisdictions many changes will come in and their suggestions will be fruitful of great benefit to us all. This is not the law of the Medes and Persians; it is only put up to-day to make some progress to-day, that we should go away from here to-day with at least an idea and an ideal, and in the hope that it will grow.

Grand Secretary Stockwell: There is one term here that for reasons which some of you know appeals to me, "through education." Now, "education" is a very broad term. I think many of us here to-day think that one of the great problems which face this country is a matter which would come under this head. We have been told that we were fighting to make democracy safe, or something of that kind. I want to say that I am very much concerned with democracy in America, just as much as I am abroad. I feel that one of the institutions which needs the protection and the patronage of the Masonic fraternity is our system of public education. (Applause.) I mean, from kindergarten to the university. I am convinced that all of our forebodings about Bolshevism and things of that kind will come to naught if we maintain untrammelled our system of public education.

I believe, men of this Conference and Masons, that as we look into the future there is a problem of the greatest moment. Now, if this contemplates something along that line, I believe we should know it. If it simply means in a general way the dissemination of knowledge and information, it does not cover the case, as I see it.

Let us take for instance the situation which may exist right here in the state of Iowa. I presume there are schools in Iowa where the youth is being trained in a foreign language; there may be in New York for aught I know —

Grand Secretary Kenworthy (New York): No, indeed!

Grand Secretary Stockwell: I know there are in North Da-

kota, and they are not all in the German language, either. I am just as opposed to education in the Scandinavian language as in the German, French, Bohemian or Polish languages.

I feel that the Masonic fraternity of this country must come out unequivocally for a program of national education and that we shall insist absolutely that the education and training of our youth from this time forward, whether in public, private or parochial school, shall be in the English language. That is a bigger program for the next fifty years, if anything, than our duty overseas, and I want to tell you that I see that duty just as clearly as any one.

I hope that when this matter is fully defined and we get the whole thing it will include something along that line. If we fail to take that into consideration, we have no right in the future to bewail some of these "isms" which come before us. The only way to protect democracy here and to build up democracy there is through a comprehensive system of public education. You cannot build a republic in Russia until you educate those masses, and the reason for their condition is because they are in ignorance, and they are groping for the light, and they do not know what they do.

I sincerely hope, brethren, that we won't lose sight of some of these things which are of vital consequence to the welfare of this great people. (Applause.)

Past Grand Master Scudder: Mr. Chairman, the brother, I think, is entirely right. We used the word "education" because it is a broad, generic term, and it includes everything. Had we attempted to define what we meant by "education," by inference we would have excluded everything which we did not specify, and we did not feel that we possessed the knowledge, to-day, to define what was meant by "education," and in so doing have it inclusive of all, but by using that word "education" in its broad sense, it embraces all of those things so dear to the heart of Brother Stockwell and so dear to the hearts of us all. I do not think we need have any fear of danger. Just as long as his voice is here to be raised, we know it will be raised at any conference which may take place when the question is raised of what is meant by this word "education" and nobody can restrict the

meaning of this word as it is here used. If on the other hand we do try to define education and we are not happy or sufficiently comprehensive, it will invite the criticism that that which we have specifically expressed inferentially excludes all we have remained silent upon and there would be danger that our indictment would read, "The Masonic fraternity stands for education as follows," naming the subjects we enumerate — and for all the other great things in education the Masonic fraternity does not stand because it does not mention them.

I think we are safe on this ground, by just using that word, and then as our brother says, when the time comes to take our stand valiantly, to take it for all those things which stand for Americanism. (Applause.)

Past Grand Master Watres: Most Worshipful Grand Master, as I understand it there is a motion now pending.

Grand Master Schoonover: The motion before the house is on the adoption of the resolution.

Past Grand Master Watres: No. As I understand, the motion is to amend, by the brother from Tennessee.

Brother Williams: No, I did not make a motion; it was offered as a suggestion.

Past Grand Master Watres: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I presume we could not undertake to adopt a perfect paper today, or in two days, and while, of course, it is desirable that this paper should be as perfect as it can be made, I think it might be well to clear the atmosphere and thus possibly avoid some questions being raised, which might not be raised if understood. If the chairman or the brother who offered the resolution will read another resolution which he has, which is to follow this, written by the committee as I understand it, providing that this proposed Constitution shall be referred to all the Grand Jurisdictions and at a later meeting be considered; in other words showing, that an opportunity to make any changes which may occur to any one, will be afforded and it is unthinkable that there will not be a great many changes, maybe some slight ones and maybe some large ones, the situation will be made easier.

I suggest that Brother Grady read the resolution he has in mind.

(The question was called for.)

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the adoption of this Constitution as read.

Past Grand Master Dana (Rhode Island): Roll call!

Grand Master Hutchinson (Montana): How about the two or three blanks in there?

Grand Master Schoonover: I think that has been covered by the suggestion that we fill those in afterwards.

Past Grand Master Lusk (Michigan): The only speech I would like to make with regard to this is to have the privilege of voting aye, and I wonder if in this roll call it would not be possible to include the has-beens of an earlier generation, that they might be recorded as in favor of this Constitution.

Grand Master Gross (Rhode Island): I would like to ask the question, for information, of the committee: If it is the intention to admit to membership other grand bodies than Grand Lodges.

Past Grand Master Scudder: That will be a matter which I suppose the several Jurisdictions will take up. If you want to ask my personal opinion, I am willing to give it, I am perfectly willing to have my personal opinions known, but I do not believe it is a matter that we can decide. I believe the Sovereign Jurisdictions of the United States have to treat that matter and they alone. I do not think any one else can. My personal view is that membership should be confined to our forty-nine Grand Lodge Jurisdictions.

Grand Master Gross: The only reason I asked the question was to be sure whether, under the head of Administration, where it says, "Upon the occurrence of a disaster of greater magnitude than a local calamity, the Grand Masters of the several Grand Jurisdictions within the departments," etc., that refers simply to the Grand Lodges.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Yes.

Grand Master Gross: Just so that we shall have no misunderstanding that those are the ones referred to.

Grand Master Schoonover: Do you want a roll call by Jurisdictions or by men?

Grand Master McPherson: Brother Lusk is from Michigan.

So am I. I would like to ask the privilege of permitting the has-beens to vote also, to show you just how Michigan stands.

Deputy Grand Master Robinson (New York): In order that that request may be met, knowing that there are several Grand Jurisdictions represented by more than one delegate in this Conference, I move you that, when the roll of Grand Jurisdictions is called, each member of a delegation present may, if he so desires, have the privilege of voting on the proposition, instead of the vote being announced by only the Grand Master if he is present, or otherwise, by his representative.

Grand Master Schoonover: Is there any objection to that suggestion? If not, we will consider that the order for the voting.

Past Grand Master Lawler: I think, Most Worshipful Sir, they had better talk between themselves and agree and the Grand Master can say three ayes and one no.

Grand Master Schoonover: I apprehend, Brother Lawler, that the scope of this thing has so captivated those present that they want to go on record. Brother Parvin will call the roll of states.

(A unanimous affirmative vote was indicated by the roll call.)

Past Grand Master Watres: As stated yesterday, I have no authority to vote for the Grand Lodge. I do unreservedly vote Aye.

Grand Master Farmer (New York): Most Worshipful Grand Master, New York desires to change its vote to five Ayes.

Grand Master McPherson: Mr. Chairman, Michigan desires to change its vote to four Ayes.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, Iowa changes its vote to five Ayes.

Grand Secretary Stockwell: Most Worshipful Sir, if you are going to vote in this way, we vote three Ayes.

Grand Master McPherson: Wouldn't it be well to call the roll of the representatives from the states to show the names of those representatives voting from the various states?

Grand Master Schoonover: Well, the roll is here and it is unanimous.

Grand Master Treadwell (Louisiana): The roll is on record; why not put it down that we are all Aye?

Grand Master Schoonover: I declare the motion unanimously carried.

(Thrilled by the recording of the unanimous vote on the motion, the entire Conference arose, without suggestion, and sang "America.")

Past Grand Master Block: The next order of business should be to fill these blanks.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Mr. Chairman, will you give me the number of Jurisdictions which have expressed their approval, so we can just fill it in in the original?

Grand Master Schoonover: I think, Brother Grady, in order that there may be no misunderstanding as to what constitutes an approval, for not all of these letters are in the same terms, that it would be wise to have a committee go over the correspondence and interpret the answers before we fill them in. We have a lot of letters here, and they are all couched in different terms, and yet many of them show that the whole spirit of this movement has been O.K.'d in advance; on the other hand, there are some that might not be interpreted in the same way as I have interpreted them when they have come to me.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Then I move, Mr. Chairman, that the matter of filling in that one blank be left to yourself and the secretary after comparing the correspondence.

Grand Master Schoonover: We will accept that responsibility.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: On page 3, that "Any member jurisdiction shall be entitled to withdraw at any time on days notice," brethren, what shall we put in there?

Grand Master Gross: Sixty days.

Past Grand Master Watres: I would say ninety days.

Grand Master Gross: I move sixty days, Mr. Chairman.

Past Grand Master Dana: I second the motion.

Past Grand Master Watres: That is a very short time for this big country. I think ninety days is short enough. I move to amend it to ninety days.

Grand Master Morris (Oklahoma): Ninety days is short enough.

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the adoption of the amendment.

Grand Master Gross: I accept the amendment.

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the adoption of the ninety-day provision. As many as are in favor of the motion will signify it by the usual voting sign of a Mason; contrary-minded, the same sign.

It is unanimously adopted.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: On page 4, "the general meeting of all departments shall be held triennially on the — day of ———." If some member will suggest a time for these meetings, it can be filled in.

Past Grand Master Watres: Most Worshipful Grand Master, if the place could be put in with the date, I would like to move that the date be fixed as the 22nd day of February, and in the City of Washington. It is Washington's birthday, and there, for nine years, the Memorial Association has met. There is sentiment in it. The time is good, and the place is right.

Brother Michie (South Carolina): Mr. Chairman, that would conflict with the Washington Memorial Association which always meets on the 22nd of February, and in which nearly all the Jurisdictions of America are represented.

Past Grand Master Watres: That is why, Most Worshipful, I fixed that time. It would be a splendid thing to have us all there together — the Memorial Association and this Association. It seems to me so.

Grand Master Vick: Most Worshipful Master, I would move to amend that by making it the 11th of November, Victory Day.

Past Grand Master Watres: That is a very good day and I withdraw my motion.

Brother Williams: I would like to second that.

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the adoption of the motion that the 11th day of November in each year be the day of the triennial meeting, to be inserted in this Constitution. All in favor signify it by the usual voting sign.

Past Grand Master Evans: The year should go in there, in order to make that complete,—the first year.

Past Grand Master Scudder: The first year will be next year. It will have to be. The 11th day of November, 1919, will be the first date, and triennially thereafter.

Grand Master Vick: I suggest that after we have filled in

the blanks we then fix the time of the first meeting in a resolution, so that it may not encumber the Constitution.

Grand Master Schoonover: There is no second to the motion to amend, and therefore the motion stands as I first put it, that the triennial meeting shall be on November 11 of the year finally chosen. As many as are in favor of the motion will now proceed to show it by the usual voting sign of a Mason.

Past Grand Master Block: Mr. Chairman, I have just discovered what I think is a typographical error in this draft. Close to the bottom of page 4, where that blank occurs, "the general meeting of all departments shall be held triennially on the 11th day of November or oftener." Isn't that a little bit awkward in there?

Past Grand Master Scudder: The meeting will be oftener, if a certain number of Jurisdictions demand it.

Past Grand Master Block: I beg your pardon. I stand corrected.

Grand Master Schoonover: As many as are opposed to the motion will so signify.

This motion is likewise unanimously carried.

Past Grand Master Block: It seems to me we have overlooked the filling of the first blank, the name of the Association.

Grand Master Schoonover: That has been adopted in the Constitution itself.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Mr. Chairman, carrying out the instructions of the committee, I now desire to offer this resolution which has been passed upon by your committee:

"Resolved, That the Constitution of the Masonic Service Association of the United States, adopted tentatively by this body, be submitted to the several Grand Jurisdictions of the United States for action; and that whenever so many as fifteen Grand Jurisdictions shall have adopted said Constitution, said Association shall then become established as a permanent organization, subject to the right of withdrawal as specified in said Constitution."

Past Grand Master Watres: I second the motion.

Grand Master Schoonover: It has been moved and seconded that the resolution as read be adopted.

Past Grand Master Anderson: Mr. Chairman, I would like to

ask for information why, inasmuch as there are 22 Grand Jurisdictions here represented, and the feeling is so unanimously for such an organization, with 49 Grand Jurisdictions, you should drop the number required for the organization down to fifteen. It seems to me it ought to be higher than that, rather than so low. In short, I cannot imagine in my own mind with the spirit here expressed by the delegates from so many Grand Jurisdictions, that any of them will fail to adopt the Constitution here presented, and from the information in the correspondence presented by Grand Master Schoonover there are many more Grand Jurisdictions in addition to these, that are ready to adopt it. Then why indicate any fear by saying fifteen, when we expect at least twenty-five?

It seems to me it ought to be at least a majority of the Grand Jurisdictions in the United States, if you assume to call it a Masonic Service Association of the United States. It seems to me that it indicates more or less cowardice on the part of this Conference to fix the number at fifteen rather than at a majority, as in my judgment it ought to be.

I therefore move that the provision for fifteen be changed to that of a majority.

Grand Master Farmer: Mr. Chairman, originally we had thirteen States. There are thirteen bars to this flag. I move that it be made thirteen. (Applause.)

Brother Prime: May I suggest, in reply to Brother Anderson that I do not think there is the slightest gleam of cowardice in the heads or hearts of any of us, but a perfect passion to get to work, and we thought if we made it ten it would be sufficient, but we have compromised and now it is fifteen. It was not for the sake of keeping anybody out, but in order to get busy, and all who want to join will join as quickly as God will let them.

Past Grand Master Anderson: With that sort of an organization, when the ten Jurisdictions had adopted the Constitution and proceeded to business, without waiting for the other Grand Jurisdictions, I believe that there will be a hesitancy and somewhat of a resentment on the part of other Jurisdictions, because the other ten had an opportunity first because of their annual communications occurring earlier. I do not think that is wise; that

is the reason for my proposition that it ought to be a majority.

Grand Master Schoonover: There was a second to Brother Farmer's amendment. The question is on the amendment to the proposition by Brother Farmer suggesting that the number be thirteen.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: He was just joking.

Grand Master Schoonover: It was seconded.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: He says he was joking. We do not want it thirteen; we want it fifteen.

Grand Master Schoonover: Then we will eliminate it from the record. I took it seriously. I thought there was a point involved that was worth while. We are following that flag, and I do not think it is out of place, my brethren. You will excuse me for stating my own opinions, but I cannot help exploding.

Grand Master McPherson: Mr. Chairman, as the first annual meeting is not until in November next year, would it not be wise that as soon as fifteen jurisdictions have adopted it, after a majority of the Grand Jurisdictions of the United States have had an opportunity to vote upon it, then the fifteen should go on and organize?

Grand Master Schoonover: After a majority have had the opportunity.

Grand Master McPherson: Have had the opportunity to present it to their Grand Jurisdictions. I do not see any harm in that, for the reason that we intend to provide for the immediate needs. We are preparing now for the future, and as I understand it, we are to provide for the immediate present in a later resolution. Is that right, Brother Prime?

Brother Prime: Substantially I think that is correct.

Past Grand Master Anderson: Brother Grand Master, I think it would be meet and proper that after at least ten Grand Jurisdictions had adopted it, if a majority had had an opportunity to adopt it, and had not done so, or if they did not see fit to act upon it, we might then call that first meeting, inasmuch as the Constitution itself provides that you may have such a general meeting upon the call of ten Grand Jurisdictions. I see no reason to change the ten, as provided in the Constitution, and we might provide in this Conference if we saw fit, I think, that

when a majority of the Grand Jurisdictions had an opportunity to act upon the proposition, in their annual or quarterly communications, the original ten, if that many have adopted it, may call the meeting of the body on November 11, 1919.

Brother Williams: Worshipful Master, if we are going to drop the number to ten, even if it be after a majority of the Grand Lodges have an opportunity to vote, why not instead of making it ten follow the flag and make it thirteen in both cases? That is, on the call of thirteen of the Grand Masters of thirteen Jurisdictions, and let us follow the flag. There were thirteen original states; there are thirteen stripes in that flag which the boys are following over there. Thirteen is the number of the success of this country. Why not follow the flag?

Past Grand Master Watres: Worshipful Grand Master, while I agreed with the resolution when it was drawn, it does occur to me that there is some force to this suggestion that when fifteen Grand Jurisdictions agree to it the association is then formed, and those who have not had an opportunity of agreeing to it are outside of the formation when it does take place, and it might be that they might criticize it. The time has been set long enough ahead so that they may all come in, but if the Association is to be formed immediately when there are fifteen, there is a question whether there might be some who would thereafter come in who might feel they should have had an opportunity to come in at the formation of the organization.

I agree with what has been said; we ought to get to work, we ought to get to work immediately, but as I understand it we are now a tentative organization and can proceed with whatever work is necessary to be done, and in view of that I wonder whether we ought not to wait until they all get in, or give them a chance to get in, and then go along on the American Constitutional way of having a majority decide things — twenty-six.

Past Grand Master Brockway: Mr. Chairman, if I may be permitted, we all know, who are here, whatever our individual views may be on what we are now doing, that we are blocking out something which is new to the Craft, something that has not entered into the thought of the vast majority of our Masons; something that will necessarily provoke a great deal of discus-

sion and will be met with some very strong adverse criticism by that well known body of good brethren whom I presume are to be found at every annual communication of the several Grand Lodges who are insisting that anything that does not agree with things when they were boys is against the landmarks, and therefore cannot be done.

I do not believe there is any reason why there should be any rush about this. The first meeting of the Association fixed by this Constitution, if ratified, will be on the 11th day of November nearly one year from now, and with mighty few exceptions the several Grand Lodges will have held their annual communications between now and that date, and this document needs to go before them as the expression of the brethren here assembled without anything that can be construed by even the most critical as an effort to force something on to the Craft, which the Craft does not want.

It is a matter that is going to require a great deal of explanation, a great deal of advocacy, a great deal of finesse, here and there, to make it clear to the brethren that we are not opposing the landmarks, we are not organizing a General Grand Lodge, we are not usurping any of the sovereign powers of the sovereign Grand Jurisdictions, we are not relegating the Grand Masters to secondary positions, or taking away their prerogatives or anything of that sort, but that what we are trying to do is to get that great, big machine, the American Masons, put into a form by which, not as isolated Grand Jurisdictions, with grand prerogatives, but as a grand body of 2,000,000 earnest men we can grab any situation of calamity that arises and take right hold of it and show to everybody that we are the brother of our brother! (Applause.)

Now, what we want is not anything that shall cause a ripple of disturbance anywhere along the line. We want to send this out and not only carry this to the Jurisdictions which are here represented, but we want to send it out to all the Jurisdictions as the thing which appeals to us after we have been in conference and considered the matter carefully for a few days, as a thing which appeals to us as putting some fire under the boilers of Masonry, getting up steam, so that we can get under way and

do something. It seems to me that under this Constitution, if adopted, the first meeting of the body can be held on the 11th day of November, 1919, and by that time every Grand Jurisdiction will have had an opportunity to pass upon it, if we send it out to them.

Brethren, can't you get ready to meet us on the 11th day of November, 1919, and put this thing into working order? (Applause.)

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Mr. Chairman, Judge Scudder is so full of good notions and ideas and is afflicted with so much modesty that he is asking me to promulgate one of his ideas which I think will cover the situation, and that is to change this resolution as follows:

"Resolved, That the Constitution of the Masonic Service Association of the United States, adopted tentatively by this body, be submitted to the several Grand Jurisdictions of the United States for action; and that whenever so many as fifteen Grand Jurisdictions shall have adopted said Constitution, after all of said Grand Jurisdictions have had an opportunity of adopting the same, said Association shall then become established as a permanent organization, subject to the right of withdrawal as specified in said Constitution."

That gives every Jurisdiction in the United States an opportunity to come in before we claim that we are an organization.

Past Grand Master Watres: I second the motion.

Grand Master Schoonover: We have a motion and amendment already before the house.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: I move this as a substitute for all preceding motions.

Brother Prime: Second the motion.

Grand Master Schoonover: The motion as just read by Brother Grady is offered as a substitute for all preceding motions, with regard to the number of Jurisdictions required to make this binding.

Brother Wherry: Mr. Chairman, may I ask this question? Is it not a fact that there are some Grand Jurisdictions which have held their meetings during the month of November?

Grand Master Schoonover: Texas and Alabama are about to meet.

Brother Wherry: Then they would not be able to hold their meeting before the 11th of November, 1919. If that is true, the substitute resolution would preclude the holding of the first annual meeting November 11, 1919.

Past Grand Master Scudder: We cannot help it. We must give them all an opportunity to come in. If needs be we will have to put that first meeting after the 11th of November, 1919.

Grand Master McPherson: We can have a called meeting and after that it can be on Victory Day.

Grand Master Schoonover: If my recollection serves me right, there are being held this week three Grand Lodge sessions. I am pledged, as soon as any action is taken here, to telegraph the substance of our action to two of those, Alabama and Georgia.

Past Grand Master Scudder: But you cannot possibly give them the gist of all this.

Grand Master Schoonover: I understand that.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Another point, Brother Chairman, we did not adopt as yet the year when we are going to hold our first meeting. We did provide that the first meeting should be on Victory Day but we have not as yet adopted the year so that matter still remains open.

We provide now that when fifteen Jurisdictions have joined and when all have had an opportunity to adopt this Constitution, then this Association shall spring into being. So we do not have to call another meeting to bring it into being. Should it happen that only fifteen did adopt it, then it would become an entity and we could meet, all having had the opportunity to join. Doubtless there will be many more than fifteen, but we think there should be something to show we intend to go ahead, even if the number is small.

(The question was called for by several.)

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the adoption of the substitute motion presented by Brother Grady. As many as favor that motion which provides that when fifteen have adopted it, after all have had an opportunity, it shall then become operative, will make it known by the usual showing of a Mason.

As many as are opposed will also show the same sign.

There is only one vote against it. It is declared carried.

Grand Master Farmer: Mr. Chairman, I move that the first meeting of this Association be on Victory day, 1919.

Past Grand Master Watres: Second the motion.

Grand Master Farmer: Those three Grand Jurisdictions which hold their meeting after that date will have to get on to the band wagon by calling some special meeting or taking some other action. We have had procrastination enough. Let us act now, and let us have our first meeting next year.

Grand Master Schoonover: Is there a second to the motion?

Past Grand Master Watres: Second the motion.

Brother Michie: That would be in conflict with the one just passed.

Past Grand Master Block: Isn't there a conflict between that and the motion you have just passed?

Brother Michie: Certainly.

Past Grand Master Block: Wouldn't it be in effect a repealing of the other motion, the last action of the assembly?

Grand Master Farmer: If that is so, I withdraw the motion. I did not realize it.

(Motion withdrawn.)

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I am going to say one more thing and then I am going to sit down permanently. It is perfectly apparent that this is merely a tentative organization. That is the spirit in which it has been adopted, and it is so denominated in the bond.

There must be a working organization between now and the time when the Constitution becomes effective by its adoption in the Grand Jurisdictions, and after conferring with several of the brethren who were on the committee I am going to say that I am speaking for the committee in offering this resolution:

“Resolved, That in order to carry out and effectuate the objects specified in the Constitution this day adopted, and for the purpose of meeting the instant need of service to the soldiers and sailors overseas, a commission of seven be appointed, with Grand Master Schoonover as chairman thereof, said committee to be selected as far as possible according to their geographical situation; which commission shall have in charge the entire work contemplated in said Constitution, in respect to the men engaged in overseas duty.

"Resolved, Further: That said commission be authorized to enter into immediate correspondence with the several Grand Jurisdictions here represented, and with those who shall hereafter adopt said Constitution; and in a general way, exercise the functions of an administrative body, until such time as a set of By-laws may be adopted by said Association."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not care to speak to that motion, but you can see that something like that must be done. Anything of a like character will suit me.

(A short recess was taken.)

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, we will resume our session. The committee is now ready to present its motion in more tangible form.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Most Worshipful Grand Master: The resolution as now drawn reads as follows:

"Resolved, That in order to carry out and effectuate the objects specified in the Constitution this day adopted, and for the purpose of meeting the instant need of service to the soldiers and sailors overseas, a commission of seven be appointed; with Grand Master Schoonover as chairman thereof, said committee to be selected as far as possible according to their geographical situation; which commission shall have in charge the entire work contemplated in said Constitution, in respect to the men engaged in overseas duty.

"Resolved, Further: That said commission be authorized to enter into immediate correspondence with the several Grand Jurisdictions here represented, and with those who shall hereafter adopt said Constitution; and in a general way, exercise the functions of an administrative body, until such time as a set of By-laws may be adopted by said Association."

Grand Master McPherson: Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the resolution.

Grand Master Farmer: I second the motion.

Past Grand Master Brockway: Mr. Chairman, why limit the correspondence to members of the Jurisdictions here present, and exclude the Jurisdictions which have not yet adopted the Constitution? In our Lodge, we are in correspondence with all the Jurisdictions.

I move an amendment that the resolution be changed to read

to the effect that the committee correspond with all Jurisdictions.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: It could not be an official correspondence with a Jurisdiction which was not a member of this Association. I took it for granted that the promulgation of this Constitution and the request that it be adopted would be handled through another channel. I take it for granted that our present presiding officer has made arrangements for this Constitution to go to all the Jurisdictions.

Grand Master Schoonover: As a part of the proceedings, certainly.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: As a part of the proceedings; but the Constitution that we have this day adopted, and the commission appointed here, could only have official communication with the Jurisdictions that have adopted it.

Grand Master Schoonover: Do I understand you then, Brother Grady, by this resolution to mean that we would be restricted in sending delegations into other Grand Lodges at the time of their annual or special meetings?

Deputy Grand Master Grady: I should not think so.

Grand Master Schoonover: What I am getting at is this—

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Put the word "official" in there, Brother Schoonover. "Official correspondence," or "may enter into official communication."

Grand Master Schoonover: As I read this over, Brother Grady, it seems to me you are putting two functions into the hands of this committee. Is that your intention?

Deputy Grand Master Grady: My intention is this: Those of you who are familiar with the organization of a corporation may know that until the stockholders of the corporation meet and elect a board of directors, and then the board of directors meet and elect the officers and adopt a set of by-laws, the conduct of the corporation is in the original stockholders, or such committee as they may appoint. Now, this is for the purpose of appointing a committee to take charge of this organization until the by-laws have been adopted. That is all.

Past Grand Master Anderson: Mr. Chairman, may we have the resolution read again so that we may more clearly understand it?

Grand Master Schoonover: I think that is very wise.

(The resolution was re-read by Grand Master Schoonover.)

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Now, you get the idea, Most Worshipful Grand Master: There was certain objection raised to the Constitution as adopted because it did not specifically state that we were to undertake instantly the relief of the soldiers and sailors overseas. The object of this resolution is to put in motion the object for which this meeting was called.

Grand Master Schoonover: I am in hearty sympathy with the purport of the resolution.

Past Grand Master Anderson: Most Worshipful Grand Master: As to that particular clause referred to, that does put into motion immediately the action of the commission in connection with the welfare work for the soldiers and sailors in our American Expeditionary Forces, I would like to ask if that limits the work of the commission to the overseas service?

What I mean, to make myself clear, is this: To me there is an immediate necessity of propaganda that no body or order in the world can undertake at this present time other than the Masonic order, and this propaganda is probably of as great importance to us as is the immediate welfare work of our expeditionary forces overseas.

When I say that, I have in contemplation that our newspapers have already informed us that there will be a new republic organized by the Poles, there will also be a new republic organized by the Czecho-Slovaks, and in both of those republics it seems to me propaganda ought to be undertaken, and we are possibly the only order in the world that will take hold and undertake to spread that propaganda for the educational system which we enjoy in the United States, and which, in my judgment, is the only bulwark against the very power with which we have been striving, and that has checkmated us at every step in our proposed welfare work with our soldiers and sailors.

It seems to me that in the organization of these new countries or new republics, when our first work is organized of immediate welfare work for our soldiers and sailors, if we see the opportunity immediately to carry on a work of propaganda in the new republics, we ought to take advantage of that opportu-

ity, and that if that clause should limit our commission only to welfare work among our sailors and soldiers, we ought to enlarge it so we can take advantage of the other opportunity, if it is possible to do so.

I ask for information now, if that clause which covers the welfare work of the sailors and soldiers does limit the commission?

Grand Master Schoonover: Let me read the opening sentence again, Brother Anderson.

“That, in order to carry out and effectuate the objects specified in the Constitution this day adopted, and for the purpose of meeting the instant need of service to the soldiers and sailors overseas.”

Past Grand Master Anderson: Now, go ahead and get to the limiting clause that comes a little later.

Grand Master Schoonover: The final language is, “Which commission shall have in charge the entire work contemplated in said Constitution, in respect to the men engaged in overseas duty.”

Past Grand Master Anderson: If I understand the resolution, it provides that this commission shall have charge of the immediate overseas service for the soldiers and sailors, and also the correspondence with the several Grand Jurisdictions to make possible that work and to carry it out. Now, if that resolution limits the service of this commission of seven, then I do not want it so limited.

That is what I am getting at. I am heartily in accord with the resolution, but I do not want it to be limited to those two things only. I want it enlarged beyond those two purposes.

Grand Master Schoonover: It says, “To carry out the objects in the Constitution,” and we have one object which is the “service of mankind through education, enlightenment, financial relief,” and so forth. As I understand it, this commission now will be empowered in a tentative way to carry out the objects of this Association.

I want now to speak, brethren, to the point there of the chairmanship. I think every one of you knows, because surely I have committed myself, that I am overwhelmingly and eter-

nally in favor of everything that has been accomplished here and I am glorying in it. I want it to be efficient. I am perfectly willing to help make it so, but the immediate objects here specified pretty nearly demand, as I view them, in fact do demand, that the man who accepts this chairmanship must not have much, if anything else, to do.

I have seven jobs. Furthermore, I live in Iowa, I am imprisoned here and I cannot get down to Washington or New York or some place along the seaboard where these activities must, of necessity, be directed from, as I view it, in order to be efficient. I am like the negro who, when a gentleman asked him to change a ten dollar bill replied, "Well, boss, I ain't got no money, but I sure does appreciate the compliment." (Laughter.)

The committee have been very kind, but I must of my own initiative strike out that part referring to myself, simply for the reason that I know full well, and if you will stop to think about it you will know just as well, that I am not the man to do that work. I am like Brother Watres; I will shirk nothing in Masonry that I can do and do well, so long as I live; but I am not the man for this job.

Past Grand Master Block: Mr. Chairman, out of deference to your wishes and in appreciation of the soundness of your remarks, and also by reason of the fact that we are jealous about your giving your services to this commission because we need your services out here, I would move that the name of Past Grand Master Townsend Scudder be substituted for that of Brother Schoonover.

(The motion, which was received with prolonged and vociferous applause, met with a storm of seconds.)

Past Grand Master Scudder: Brother Chairman, and my dear brethren, I rose with a clear head; it is not quite so clear now.

This thing cannot be, and it cannot be for a reason which you will appreciate. New York is committed to this overseas work and New York is about to start overseas to do this work. The Grand Master of New York has commissioned me to go over to Europe with this commission, there to start the work. I

should, of course, very properly be the servant there, as I gladly will be. I could not, however, perform the duties of servant and master. You can readily appreciate that.

So it is not appropriate that I should act as chairman; but it does seem to me that one who has displayed here not only great breadth but also has displayed wonderful industry and tact, whose clear thinking has impressed us all and whose splendid enthusiasm has done the same, might perhaps well undertake this work, and he is near the sea too, which would help. Brother Grady here is wonderfully qualified for this work, and if we could prevail upon him to undertake it I think we would have a splendid solution of our troubles. (Applause.)

Past Grand Master Evans: Most Worshipful Grand Master, just as touching the suggestion to which our attention has been directed, there is another reason why I think Brother Scudder not only ought to but cannot avoid the responsibility.

I listened intently, and I think understandingly, to a description of the situation as it developed in Washington and its surroundings with reference to the permission to go across the seas. My recollection is that there was a body, Masonic, which happened to get its nose unintentionally in the pathway of the New York delegation. In answer to a question but a little while ago, Brother Scudder informed us that the intention or purpose was to carry on this work under the cloak of the New York delegation; and it seems to me if this committee is now appointed and constituted so that Brother Scudder is not at the head of it, we will again run into the same thing. It does strike me, therefore, that Brother Scudder is the only man who can take this up and not get into great difficulties.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Most Worshipful Grand Master: I had no idea that this body was in earnest, or that Brother Scudder was in earnest in suggesting me to head this commission. If I did have such idea, I would say that I was very foolish in hoisting myself on my own petard. I believe the newspapers use language like that sometimes. (Laughter.)

There is no possible chance in the world for me to serve, not alone as chairman, but even as a member of this commission. I could not possibly leave home now. I thank Brother Scudder for the suggestion he has made, however.

Past Grand Master Watres: Right Worshipful Grand Master, it does occur to me that knowing as we do now from Brother Scudder himself that he has to be overseas for several months, and knowing as we must that being overseas he could not attend to the duties that would be imposed necessarily by this position, much as we dislike to do so we are obliged to accept his statement.

I feel it would be hardly fair to him to insist upon his accepting this position in view of what he necessarily must do under this present arrangement.

Grand Secretary Stockwell: Is it not possible to climb around this trouble by naming Judge Scudder as chairman, and then naming a vice-chairman in his absence?

Grand Master Charles C. Homer, Jr. (Maryland): Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask you to call upon the Grand Master of New York and ask him whether he sees any conflict in Judge Scudder holding both positions, because when he is overseas he could have a vice-chairman to attend to his duties in his absence.

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is with you now, Brother Farmer.

Grand Master Farmer: I do not really see how Brother Scudder can accept the chairmanship of this commission. As I read it, and as I have that resolution in my mind, it is for work here really among the Grand Jurisdictions, and Judge Scudder is going to be overseas.

Grand Master Homer: That is one part of it.

Grand Master Schonover: Yes, that is only part of it.

Grand Master Farmer: He certainly cannot do the work here and be over there. I do not see how he can accept it, because he certainly is going over there. I do not believe it would be wise, for that reason, to appoint him chairman of this commission. The chairman should be here.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, if I may say just a word first: It occurs to me there may be just a little bit more in this, and perhaps our resolution might well go somewhat farther. See if I am sound in this.

There is going to be a tremendous necessity here for a rapid and complete interchange of ideas between all our men in the United States, and a great many more. I think it unquestion-

ably true that in the promulgation, for example, of these minutes to the various Grand Bodies, it is highly desirable that sufficient copies be in hand so that they may be presented to the leading men in the various Jurisdictions in order that they may study this whole problem, study what we have done, appreciate, if our minutes show it, the spirit which has characterized this meeting, and so prepare themselves when they get into their Grand Bodies to vote upon the question that will then be presented to them.

If that is the case, is it not possible that we might subdivide this a little bit, or should we place it all in the hands of the committee as has been done, and let them subdivide it?

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Mr. Chairman, why not strike out the name of the chairman of the committee and just appoint seven men and let them elect their own chairman and go on and do the work? (Applause.) Just strike out the whole thing. I am the parent of the child, and I take the privilege of emasculating it to that extent.

(Cries of "Good" and calls for the question.)

Past Grand Master Anderson: I appreciate that suggestion, but I would like to say this: I think Grand Master Schoonover has struck the happy solution of the proposition, but I understand that this committee intended to compliment and honor our presiding officer who was responsible for this Conference, in naming him as chairman of this committee, and I cannot see any reason why that name should be stricken out and the compliment and the honor should not be handed out and the commission then organized along the lines of the necessary subdivisions in order to carry on the work; and if necessary, Justice Scudder could be chairman of the subdivision having to do with the overseas work and the chairman of the division for the propaganda I have suggested would not necessarily need to be the chairman originally named in the resolution.

Personally I am in favor of passing the compliment and honor to our presiding officer, contained in the resolution naming him as chairman of this committee, and saddling the work onto him. I think he is capable of both.

Grand Master Schoonover: That would make eight jobs.



RECEPTION COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE



(The question was again called for.)

Past Grand Master Brockway: We strike another difficulty in this resolution. We are now informed with more or less definiteness, and indeed with some positiveness, that Brother Scudder is going across to undertake the Masonic overseas work. Now, I do not believe that this Conference has any notion of allowing the great Jurisdiction of New York to monopolize Brother Scudder. We all want him, and if it is possible to amend the wording of the resolution so that at least in the appointment of that committee Brother Scudder shall be designated as the authorized and empowered agent of this Conference, and the Grand Jurisdictions here represented, in charge of overseas work, let us put that in.

He has already gotten pretty near to the solution of the point. Now, let us grab off the benefit of the work he has done and adopt him as our own and take him out of the New York Jurisdiction, if necessary, and make him a member of all these Grand Jurisdictions.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, this is very important. I think we may as well take time to consider and get the best opinion that is here.

Past Grand Master George Lawler (Washington): Mr. Chairman, the entire success of this whole matter, in my judgment, is going to depend upon who is chairman of this commission. If the man who has brought it to a success thus far is unwilling to assume the responsibility, I do not see that any of the rest of us is competent. In your hands, Mr. Chairman this must rest. You have brought us here. We are pulling with you. You are the only man competent to lead this commission. If you have to have help, just ask us. The busiest man always has time, and a man without your enthusiasm will make a failure. It is up to George.

(Applause and cries of "Leave it to George.")

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, let us have a recess for five minutes.

(The question was again called for.)

Grand Master Schoonover: No, I mean that. I would like to have a little chance to talk more definitely with some of you

brethren, and I would really like a few minutes in which to consider this.

Brother Michie: Oh, give it to him, brethren.

(A short recess followed.)

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, if we may now have our seats again, we are going to talk a little business.

The first thing I want to say before I forget it, is this: That we are going to take a picture here before we go down to supper, and then the breezes will blow the flashlight smoke away after we leave this room. It has been suggested, and I think wisely, that a gathering such as this is, which has accomplished something for the first time in the history of Freemasonry, ought to have its picture taken, and I guess it should.

Now, brethren, you have put this proposition up to me in such a manner that I felt justified in canvassing the situation a little just to see where we really stand. I have been around here and talked to some of these men. Most of them are — well, they are all young men, and I have put it up to them in this way: Somebody has got to be drafted here to do this work which we want done. I regard it absolutely vital that the men who are drafted shall all come out of this Conference, because without the inspiration that they have had from this meeting I doubt very much whether they could so familiarize themselves with the details and the plan, and so forth, and have the atmosphere of this Conference so as to be able to do business on a business basis, and that is what this amounts to.

Now, there is another matter. I am not familiar with the financial circumstances of the men whom I have chosen here.

It may be that upon some of them will devolve work which will take of their time and their energy to the extent that if they do not already have clerical forces around them, or if they have perhaps an insufficient clerical force to assume these additional burdens, for in some cases I do not doubt but that they will be heavy, then they ought to have some reasonable allowance for stenographic hire and things of that kind which will naturally come up.

Now, there must be no misunderstanding about this. If the Committee is to be vested with the authority to do this out of the funds which will be raised for these purposes — because there

will have to be some plan developed for that, of course — would I have the privilege of approving a recommendation from one of these members whom I shall presently name, in the event it becomes necessary for him, in justice to his family, to ask for some stenographic help or things of that kind? What I am trying to get at is your view point on this. Is it the sense of this meeting that I shall be permitted to act on these matters? I want the cards face up on the table now.

Past Grand Master Scudder: There is a Latin proverb, *de minimis non curat lex*, meaning the law does not trouble itself over little things. This is all chicken feed, and you dispense it. (Laughter and applause.)

(Unanimous approval was indicated by the voices of the representatives.)

Grand Master Schoonover: Very well, then, I am going to read a list of six names:

Robert J. Kenworthy (New York)

Hugh A. McPherson (Michigan)

A. C. Wherry (Utah)

Chas. C. Homer, Jr. (Maryland)

E. Tudor Gross (Rhode Island)

W. L. Stockwell (North Dakota)

That is six. (Applause.)

Now, if those six are acceptable to this body, and if this work is acceptable to them, so that they will consent to be drafted, then I will consent. (Laughter and applause.)

(Members of the conference sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow.")

Grand Master Schoonover: Thanks. I will read the resolution.

"Resolved, That, in order to carry out and effectuate the objects specified in the Constitution this day adopted, and for the purpose of meeting the instant need of service to the soldiers and sailors overseas, a Commission of seven be appointed with Grand Master Schoonover of Iowa as chairman thereof; said Committee to be selected as far as possible according to their geographical situation; which Commission shall have in charge the entire work contemplated in said Constitution, in respect to the men engaged in overseas duty.

"Resolved, Further, that said Commission be authorized

to enter into immediate correspondence with the several Grand Jurisdictions here represented, and with those who shall hereafter adopt said Constitution; and, in a general way, exercise the functions of an administrative body, until such time as a set of by-laws may be adopted by said Association.

“Resolved, Further, that this Commission be known and designated as ‘The Executive Commission of the Masonic Service Association of the United States.’”

Brother Wherry: Mr. Chairman, may I ask one question before the motion is put? This resolution, as I understand, applies entirely to the men overseas.

(Cries of “No, no.”)

Grand Master Schoonover: The second section of it, Brother Wherry, I think is quite different on that point. (Reading said section.) As many as favor the adoption of the resolution will signify it by the usual voting sign of the Order.

The contrary, the same.

It is unanimous.

Past Grand Master Brockway: Mr. Chairman, I offer the following resolution:

“Be It Resolved, That Brother Townsend Scudder, Past Grand Master of New York, and the Chairman of the Commissioners appointed by the Grand Master of New York to undertake the overseas work among the soldiers and sailors of the American Expeditionary Force, be, and he is hereby, appointed and designated as the agent and Commissioner of this Conference and the Grand Jurisdictions here represented, and those which may hereafter adopt the Constitution of the Masonic Service Association of the United States, to take charge of the overseas work contemplated and embodied in the Constitution this day adopted.”

Brother Michie: I second the motion.

Grand Master Schoonover: You have heard the motion; any remarks?

Past Grand Master Lawler: I would add to that, subject to the direction of the chairman of the Committee appointed to manage this institution. Do you want him to go independent of the Committee which we have already appointed?

Grand Master Schoonover: I think he is entirely competent to take care of himself without any directions from this Committee.

Grand Master Homer: Brother Chairman, I do feel that it should be distinctly understood that Brother Scudder will keep in touch with you as chairman of this Committee so you, as well as this committee, may be fully advised as to the needs abroad.

Grand Master Schoonover: You can be absolutely certain that I will keep in touch with him.

Past Grand Master Brockway: I might say, Mr. Chairman, that my purpose in putting it in that exact form was this: Brother Scudder has had all the correspondence and taken all the action with reference to the matter of passports and overseas service and we simply now put into effect for the future what we did yesterday for the past. We ratified what he had done. Now we say, "Go ahead." We wanted him behind us and we want him still ahead of us, so when he goes to the Department he can say, "Here is what the Masons of the United States have said and my relations with them in the matter."

Grand Master Schoonover: I think Brother Brockway has a very splendid way of presenting his proposition, so that we all understand it.

The question is on the adoption of the resolution as read. As many as are in favor of it will signify by the usual sign of the order.

Contrary, the same sign.

The resolution is unanimously adopted.

Past Grand Master Brockway: I have another resolution. This may not be necessary, but I submit it for your consideration. We have adopted a Constitution which we are about to send out to the different Grand Jurisdictions for ratification. We want a clearing house so we can know what they are doing.

"Be It Resolved, That for the purpose of making the record of the adoption and ratification of the Constitution by the several Grand Jurisdictions, this Conference recommends that Brother Newton R. Parvin, Grand Secretary of Iowa, be designated and appointed as the person to whom the several Grand Jurisdictions be requested to make return and report of their action upon the Constitution: be it further

"Resolved, That said Brother Parvin be, and he is hereby, directed immediately preceding the annual communication of each Grand Jurisdiction to advise each of the action

theretofore taken by other Grand Jurisdictions upon the adoption of the Constitution; be it further

“Resolved, That after he shall have received the report from the several Grand Jurisdictions, the said Brother Parvin shall thereupon report to each Grand Jurisdiction the names of the several Grand Jurisdictions which shall have adopted and those which shall have rejected the Constitution.”

And I move the adoption of this resolution.

Grand Secretary Parvin: Mr. Chairman, before putting that, may I say a word? I do not feel I am capable of filling that position in the first place, and in the second place I have more than I can do now to attend to my own duties as Grand Secretary of Iowa. I hope you will select some other member to fill the place, far more ably than I could do.

Past Grand Master Brockway: I have a reason for this resolution: Brother Parvin is in touch with what we have done. He knows the temper and the sentiment of the brethren here assembled; he knows what we have tried to do. He understands the motive behind the movement; he is a capable brother, as we all know. He is centrally located; he has the confidence, I am sure, of the brethren throughout these United States and is in the best position in the world to do the clerical work that is imposed upon him by this resolution, and if it becomes necessary for Brother Parvin to have extra help in the performance of this duty, I doubt not that it will be procured for him. He is the logical man.

Past Grand Master Anderson: Was the motion to adopt the resolution seconded?

Grand Master Schoonover: I do not think it was; I did not hear it.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would be glad to second that motion and see it adopted, but I think instead of adopting that resolution that we should right now, in order to do away with any red tape or technicality that might arise, elect Brother Parvin as Secretary to this Executive Commission.

Past Grand Master Lawler: Why not let the Committee do it?

Deputy Grand Master Grady: I am willing to do that, to leave it to the Commission.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Perhaps this would help the matter out: The things Brother Brockway has suggested are very important things and they are the things this Committee will have to do. If he presses his resolution and it is the sense of this Committee that these things be done, they can be done by the secretary of the Commission under the direction of its chairman, and I think the end will be accomplished, particularly as Brother Parvin says he cannot undertake the work. Why would not that solve the problem? The duties as they are outlined are indeed important ones, and they should be attended to and doubtless the secretary will be glad to have the advice of this Committee as to how to proceed. To this extent it is not tying their hands; it is only a suggestion, and a very helpful one. I thought it was admirably thought out, as Brother Brockway read it.

Past Grand Master Anderson: I am of the opinion that the information to be gathered and disseminated as suggested in the resolution ought to be in the hands of the Commission entirely, and we ought not to create a secretary for them to handle such information. I am opposed to the resolution and the taking of any of the work or information in the way of either gathering or disseminating it from the hands of the Commission we have appointed, but since the resolution was not seconded on arising for the first time I did not care to talk on it until it had a second.

I am opposed to the resolution. I think it all belongs to the Commission. Of course we all want the information but I believe it should all come to the Commission through whatever secretary they may themselves appoint, and be disseminated from the Commission which we have appointed to have charge of the work.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Why not refer this resolution, which is well thought out and has splendid matter in it and will doubtless be of help to the Commission, to the Commission with power to act? Then they get the benefit of the idea advanced in it.

I move as a substitute that the resolution just offered be re-

ferred to the Commission with power to act upon it as they see fit.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Second the motion.

Grand Master Schoonover: You have heard the motion of Brother Scudder; as many as favor it will signify it by the usual sign of the order; contrary the same.

The motion is carried.

Grand Master Homer: Brother Chairman, I am a bank man by profession. I know you cannot run this mill without some grist. You were talking about employing secretaries and so forth. I do not know where you are going to get the money unless you get it from your own Jurisdiction. I feel that we ought to show our faith in this organization by formally here subscribing on behalf of our Grand Lodges, where we are authorized to do so. I have the authority of my Grand Lodge. I believe at the present time a tax of five cents per capita would be sufficient until we have further needs. We have nearly 20,000 Masons in Maryland, which would make our quota about a thousand dollars. I pledge a thousand dollars subject to your call.

Grand Master Farmer: New York pledges a thousand dollars; you may have a check now.

Grand Master Schoonover: This is getting down to business, brethren.

Grand Master Vick: North Dakota pledges five cents per capita.

Grand Master Treadwell: You can get a check for the five cents per capita from Louisiana as soon as Brother Davilla and I get back to sign it.

Grand Master Schoonover: It begins to sound like business — to a banker.

Now, brethren, we still have some important business to consider, but it is twenty minutes to six and it will take twenty minutes to get your faces looking pretty so we can have this picture taken, and get the picture taken.

Past Grand Master Watres: Put Pennsylvania down for five cents per capita, — and more if you need it.

Past Grand Master Lawler: I thought the brother from Pennsylvania had no authority to bind Pennsylvania! (Laughter.)

Past Grand Master Watres: If they don't pay it, I will. But they will pay it. (Applause.)

(A photograph was then taken of the Conference, and an adjournment was taken until 7:30 P. M. of the same day, November 27, 1918.)

WEDNESDAY EVENING SESSION

NOVEMBER 27, 1918, 7:30 O'CLOCK

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, it is 7:32, so we are two minutes late. I think we had better resume our labors, for we have very much yet to consider.

Grand Master Homer: Is there anything pending before the house, Mr. Chairman?

Grand Master Schoonover: No, Brother Homer.

Grand Master Homer: It has occurred to a number of us that in selecting the Committee of seven to serve as an executive commission, the country has not been entirely and satisfactorily covered, and I would like, therefore, to offer an amendment to the resolution as adopted, making it a Committee of nine instead of seven.

(The amendment was seconded.)

Past Grand Master Block: Coming from perhaps one of the divisions that has been most signally honored in the selection of this body, I desire to second that motion and I hope it will prevail.

(The amendment was put to a show of hands and unanimously prevailed.)

Grand Master Schoonover: I think I know what is in your minds, and I am going to appoint as the other two members of this Commission Brother George A. Treadwell, Grand Master of Louisiana, and Brother T. P. Warlow, Grand Master of Florida. (Applause.)

Grand Secretary Stockwell: I think we had better sing "Dixie" again.

Grand Master Schoonover: I expect that singing it made us think about this. You understand, brethren, I have been watching every man here, and I have tried to get the fellows who had the keynote of this thing in their minds, and who were so located as to help us do business, and I think this helps us, too.

Brethren, we have for this evening's discussion a subject no whit less important than those we have heretofore been discussing. I think in the minds of all of us has been a sort of a query as to just what the outline of our work should be. The atmosphere needs clarifying in that respect, and perhaps if we get a better vision of the tangible part of that duty, we will be able better to measure the needs we shall have to meet, particularly in so far as finances are concerned.

I am going, therefore, to ask Brother Prime of New York to now come forward and tell us his side of the story.

Brother William C. Prime: Brother Chairman, and Brethren: I might almost say "May it please the court and gentlemen of the jury," but I know the jury is with me this time, so I know there is no use of addressing them in any such fashion.

This is a matter of driving into our own hearts the true inwardness of this situation, which is quite various, brethren, and realizing what the men need, what the imperative necessity is at the present time, what we can do and what we can best do and then, please God, doing it.

Brother Scudder told you yesterday of the original negotiations with the Y. M. C. A. which were carried on during the efforts to get affirmative action or consent from Washington, being, as it were, another string to the bow, and how, I think he said yesterday, they quite curtly and quickly and unhesitatingly turned us down.

We have never since been content with that, nor idle as respects that other string, and just as the last letter was sent to Washington, yet unanswered, the effort to obtain an instinct of coöperation in the Y. M. C. A. has been quietly and steadily conducted.

Last Friday evening three of us, Judge Scudder, Brother Kenworthy and myself, had an interview with three of the more important — I think I may safely say the most important — officers in the executive affairs of the Y. M. C. A., at the Yale Club in New York. It lasted from half-past six until half-past nine, and was pleasantly conducted over a simple but very excellent meal. The invitation was suddenly extended, and immediately accepted, and I think I may safely say there was a cer-

tain probable interposition of Providence in that connection, because it chanced that Brother Kenworthy and I at least had had ample opportunity of otherwise fixing ourselves for the evening with business that was entertaining and attractive, but we kept ourselves free for this journey and such incidents as were important to us; so that when the Judge summoned us to that interview on very short notice we were foot loose, and I think Providence was in it.

This interview was of their solicitation, not ours. They wanted to talk with us. Mr. Watson, Mr. Hibbard, and Mr. Brockman, all of them important persons as heads or subheads or near heads of the Y. M. C. A., were there, and they opened to us in due course the subject of renewed negotiations. Mr. Watson brought with him maps and books relating to their activities and locations and circumstances, and so forth, and we canvassed in due course the possibility of coöperation.

The question naturally arose in the course of the interview as to why they now wanted us to coöperate with them, whereas before they were indifferent if not entirely cold to it. It appeared in the course of the discussion that they felt the need for service overseas in connection with the efforts of the men, and the state of the men after the war was over, was infinitely greater than before. That the situation was far more critical. They had come to life, as it were, and they now realized as they never had before that they were not doing all or a large majority that could be done and ought to be done for the men. They were doing what they could according to their lights, but they were quite conscious of the fact that they were not perfect. In fact, they quite freely admitted it. They knew, of course, as stated to you, that some of their secretaries had not done wisely. In fact, at one stage of the interview it was stated to them by a person whose name need not be mentioned but you can imagine quite accurately who it was, that probably some of their men or most of their men must have been lame ducks, and they quite simply and uniformly admitted the fact. Of course, it went without saying, as has been said here, that they did the best they could according to their lights and means and methods to do their part, but they had not been successful in getting the best

men always, and neither were the Red Cross nor the Knights of Columbus successful in all respects.

We canvassed the work they were engaged in and the work that we could best do. At first it was suggested that we should take over a unit. It was shown that in certain places they have several huts and in certain others they have only two and in some places one. In many places they have quite a variety of activity, a canteen, a movie show, a place somewhat like our Sea and Field Club in New York, nothing like as commodious or as well planned, but something on that order; a place where men could get together and have note paper and reading matter and pens and ink and all that kind of thing and play cards and fuss around. They also themselves ran houses for entertaining the men over night.

These enterprises, of course, are quite expensive. Undertaking anything of that kind depends a good deal upon the wherewithal and also upon the machinery with which to handle it. It was made clear in the course of the interview that we did not have that machinery and had not expected to provide it, and that after all what we could best do was probably to offer to the men an additional feature to anything which the Y. M. C. A. has offered or can offer, because they are not Masons as such.

It is practically admitted that the men demand with a crying demand, a pleading demand, Masonic intercourse and that Masonic clubs do not satisfy that want or that demand. These non-Masons, unless Mr. Watson is a Mason, which he did not disclose; Judge Scudder thought he was and he may be, but these non-Masons appreciate with a good deal of intelligence that there is something about Masonry that these men all want, that will do these men good, and that they cannot supply them with, and that it must be supplied.

They have in various places what they call "leaveareas"—which is an odd term. I don't know where they got it from; I suppose they coined it. I do not know whether it is from the Italian or from the French, but it evidently is taken from the root word "leave" and it means a place where men on leave stop a while, stop about eight days and then go on or go back to their places. It was generally understood that our activity could best

be performed in London or Paris, probably preferably in Paris, where we could reach the officers as well as the men; there are a good many Masons among the officers, and also at the leaveareas; and the extent of that activity would depend a good deal on how much money we could find to support it.

We told them we were coming here for a conference and that we could not commit ourselves definitely to anything until we had had that conference but that then we should know within what scope we could work. That we were going anyhow. That if we went alone we, of course, would have to take the thing on on a scale that would be commensurate with our ability; and that if we went in company, that is to say, with the backing of others as much interested and almost more than we, it was quite likely that we should be able to do considerably more than we could do alone.

So the matter was left for us to report to them immediately on our return as to whether we would go alone or as to whether we would go, as I put it, en comrade.

They were most insistent, my brothers, upon our going and going promptly. So much so that when we stopped at the coat room Brother Brockman said, "Can't you go the first of December? We are going on the first of December, and there is an awful nice ship sailing, and it would be lovely to go together." That was their attitude.

Before we got to that point, however, it occurred to me that it might be profitable to make a resumé of the progress we had made during the evening and so we canvassed as to what we had practically come to a conclusion on that we ought to do, and it was, as I have stated to you, that we could well work in London or in Paris where probably we would do as we had originally planned to do; not build a hut or huts, but rent quarters, what they call in Paris an apartment, and furnish it and equip it as well as we could on the lines we have planned in New York. It will not be as palatial as that, nor as extensive, of course, and it will not include in all probability a canteen. That includes machinery which we certainly would not undertake to maintain at all. I do not think there is any need of it. That we should also take on at least one hut in one leavearea and probably more if we had more than the one Jurisdiction in our enterprise.

The subject of finances was gone into. To build a hut according to them will cost about ten thousand dollars, and to furnish it will cost approximately five thousand dollars; and to run it will cost about fifteen thousand dollars a year. You can see that that is quite an undertaking, and it is quite beyond our intention to do it on that basis, on the basis of a capital investment of fifteen thousand dollars and an annual upkeep or maintenance of fifteen thousand dollars. Our original idea of overseas work entailed a probable expense of about fifty thousand dollars a year. That was on the theory that New York would handle it alone. Whether it need be as great as that alone or in company is a question that cannot now be answered. It will have to depend very greatly upon what is discovered by the commission that goes there from a practical inspection on the ground.

The financial problem is a quite simple one. It is, of course, understood that if we go we pay our own way. We pay all the expenses connected with our own activities. Price, Waterhouse & Company are employed by the Y. M. C. A. as their auditors and comptrollers, and they have a very interesting system of accounting by which funds that are given here are offset to some extent, if not entirely — well, certainly not entirely, by funds that are received over there for transmission here so that they save the exchange on moneys they receive from men there consigned to their kin here by making payment out of funds that they have here, the transmission being accomplished either by letter or by wire. It does not make a raft of difference whether we do our business that way or whether it is done some other way; so long as the funds are handled properly and accounted for properly, and Price, Waterhouse & Company can easily and simply keep a separate account of our moneys which can be kept in separate accounts, although to all intents and purposes combined with and handled as part of the Y. M. C. A. fund. They would simply be kept separately and handled separately in all respects except in the transmission as I have explained.

That gives you an outline of what the Y. M. C. A. want us to do. We asked them whether there was a question of there being any referendum to any higher up; whether these gentlemen could speak for the organization and authorize us to assure our members of their ability to make good. They said after com-

muning with themselves that they did not think there was anything about what we were doing or proposing to do that would require submission to anyone else.

The question came up about our identity as Freemasons in connection with the maintenance or control of any particular unit we undertook to handle. Whether it might have the square and compasses over the door, or otherwise be designated by a Masonic emblem. There was a little discussion of that, and it appeared that the Y. M. C. A. triangle would naturally be over the door or it would be around the jamb of the door or side of the door or over the fireplace or some other place, but that there should be a perfectly legible sign indicating that it was maintained by Free and Accepted Masons. It was of course understood that the activities we would undertake would be for all Masons, but it was understood further that those activities would be for all men because that was a part of our original plan, to make a social center for recreation and Masonic intercourse, essentially and principally for Masons, and for Masons to have their own home which they could consider as theirs, and where they could invite their friends, their bunkies, their pals, with the same freedom as they could to their own homes. That was a very large and important part of our original idea of overseas work, to make the men feel it was a place where they could go that was theirs.

We also talked about the possibility of there being peculiarly Masonic work conducted over there to satisfy these men's desires. There was some debate about that. These men, of course, understood there would be a demand for that kind of a thing, and that it was not an unimportant part of our proposed activities. Although in certain places it is necessary to have arrangements between themselves and the Knights of Columbus so that Y. M. C. A. huts shall be available for masses or confessions, it was deemed desirable that Masonic business pure and simple, purely Masonic gatherings and rite meetings, should not be had in a hut.

There was no reason in the world for it, with us working as Y. M. C. A. secretaries, with freedom of action and freedom in going and coming under a director who was a Mason and who

would probably be located at Paris, and it would probably be desirable to have more than one director, located at such other places as were most convenient for the purpose of easily handling and controlling the funds and the work. It was quite thoroughly understood, I say, and entirely proper, as was assented to, that we should have such Masonic activities in some place, a hotel room or some place we might find available and private and separate from the apartment which we were operating under the sign of the triangle.

In order that there might be no complications with the government on a matter of that kind, that was the suggestion made, and I think we all agreed that that was an eminently proper thing and entirely agreeable.

You understand, my brothers, that under government orders nothing can take place excepting possibly confessions, behind locked doors or behind closed doors, in France. Masonic ceremonies as such are not permissible so far as the activities of the Y. M. C. A. are concerned, which is in a sense a governmental instrument.

We believe that that entirely satisfies that particular necessity of our plan, and gives us a reasonable opportunity, unless, as has been suggested, another wrench is thrown in the machinery, to accomplish, whether Washington gives us our credentials or not, the thing that we have set our hearts upon.

I think we ought to say in this connection that if we do not hear from Washington in due time, or if we do hear from Washington that the plan is still rejected, it would be decent for us to say to Washington, as we doubtless shall, "You need not trouble yourselves further about our business. We have effected arrangements which are satisfactory to us and are substantially along the lines of a suggestion heretofore made by you, to-wit, we are going with the Y. M. C. A."

Now, let it be understood that it is distinctly understood between us and them that we shall have freedom of action. We shall be always under their control as regards the propriety of our course. We shall have the same liability of being thrown out, as any other stupid or indiscreet person.

In the same connection, it should be said that they are quite

aware of the fact that among their 4,000 odd secretaries possibly half of them are Masons already. They know that they are among the highest class men they have among their secretaries. They are keenly desirous of lifting the quality of the personnel of their own establishment and they are keenly appreciative of the fact that among Masons they will find an infinitely higher class of men to appoint as secretaries than anywhere else. It may be you will discover in that a reason for their extreme anxiety that we should go now.

Brother Warlow asked me a while ago about the attitude of the church towards Masons and particularly we discussed the subject of the attitude of the Greek church. They had an interesting experience in connection with a mission to Russia. They picked one of their cleverest, most diplomatic, highly qualified men to send on the Russian mission. When they found he was a Mason they had to pick somebody else because they found that the Greek church and the Masons are not on a footing. That is one of the ways in which they discover the quality of their men, and they fully appreciate the quality of Masonic men as secretaries.

Judge Scudder reminds me that when they started to pick others, they found man after man they wanted to pick was a Mason and they really had trouble in picking a man who was capable of doing the job and who was not a Mason. (Applause.)

Now, brethren, that is, of course, a matter very close to your hearts and very close to my heart, and outlines to you in a few words the state of the case and the state of the negotiations; the quality of the commission that we have to go, as far as the Y. M. C. A. is concerned, but it does not quite open up to you the quality of the commission we have to go as far as the men are concerned.

In that connection may I now present, Brother Chairman, a letter dated November 21, 1918, from Brother Octavius C. Beale of Australia, who is a most eminent Mason and whom you were good enough to suggest I should invite to come here to take part in this Conference, Brother Beale being on his way back to Australia from England, after being there for some time, and which invitation he unfortunately has had to decline.

I will hand to you for printing in full in the minutes, if you please, both the letter and the credentials which accompany it, which he desired to have read, but I do not know that we need read them here for it will take more time probably than is desirable. But let me read this portion from his letter. Referring to the credentials, he says:

"The words are commonplace and the spirit is that of every day. Yet there is special occasion, right now, to draw together in communion as brethren in deed and in truth. For although many millions have risked their all, and some millions have paid their lives for the cause of justice in punishing the wrong-doers, there are also millions who are out for avarice and exploitation. They have suffered only in hearsay and are intent upon world-wide gain. Against those under currents generated by unprincipled men are the lofty principles of Freemasonry, brotherly love, relief and truth. No plans are needed, no scheme is necessary. Merely let us induce intercourse between all the English-speaking brethren who celebrate our august rites within the ancient landmarks. Apart from all politics and turmoil from which Freemasonry, as so called, has in other languages so frequently been disturbed and distorted, let us seek the good of others as well as our own.

"Intercommunion will make for peace which indeed is great gain. Secret as the movements of the heart and the circulation of the blood, so may the sap of Freemasonry nourish and strengthen the whole body of the Craft where-soever they may be, to the honour and glory of the Almighty Architect and the furtherance of His rule in the earth."

There is not a lovelier man of my acquaintance. Brother Beale has been in New York since mid-September, and is about to return to Australia. Shortly after his arrival in New York, it was my pleasure as the representative of the Grand Lodge of England to come in touch with him, as was natural, and it was also natural that I should ask his attendance upon Sea and Field Lodge No. 1 at its next session. It chanced that the influenza took his eldest son, Edgar, who traveled all the way from Sydney to meet his parents in New York and return to Sydney with them, and the influenza ran into pneumonia and the poor chap died in early October, and he was lying unburied in a morgue in New York, when his father, distracted naturally and

seeking Masonic solace and solace in the society of men, had the opportunity to visit Sea and Field Lodge — a rather extraordinary thought, my friends, but it is not so extraordinary after all. He and his wife were talking with me in the Hotel Belmont, his wife very much broken up, naturally, and he said, "Mother, I think I will go." She looked at him, a bit puzzled at such a thought, and he said, "Mother, it is saving souls." "By all means go." He went, and he went to every session of Sea and Field Lodge which occurred thereafter and he could not be kept away.

He has begged me to write for him, something for publication in England respecting the genesis and activity of this Lodge. And as this bears in part upon some of the activities which Masonry must provide abroad, and has been providing for the men in service in this country, I beg you to bear with me while I read to you some portion of what I have written. It was not written to be read here, but I have felt that it will contain some appropriate things to say to you, in part if not in whole:

The United States of America entered the Great War on the side of the Allies on April 6, 1917. On the first Tuesday of May following, the Grand Lodge of New York held its Annual Communication, which was marked by enthusiasm, deep interest in, and support of, the war and of the cause of the Allies, but fortuitously, and yet, strangely enough, so new was the war and our participation therein — so inchoate our plans and appreciation of the duties and responsibilities that would be involved, that practically no consideration — certainly no adequate consideration — was given to the duties and responsibilities that would rest upon Freemasonry in connection therewith, and with the participation in the war of thousands of Freemasons from the state of New York.

Grand Master Penney, early in the month of July following, appointed a "Committee on Plan and Scope of Masonic Service During the War," to advise with him and suggest the course to be pursued, and legislation to be enacted to meet the emergency. The plans of the government for the construction of a great army had been formulated and were in process of devel-

opment. Camps and cantonments were established at Syracuse, Fort Niagara, Madison Barracks, Plattsburg, Yaphank, and Pelham Bay, within the borders of the state, and men were also located at Fort Totten, Fort Slocum, Fort Jay, Fort Hamilton, and Fort Wadsworth in the process of training. Enlistments were being made rapidly. The draft had been authorized and was about to be carried into effect. The army was mobilizing. Numbers of men, candidates for Masonry, elected, and upon whom none, or only some, of the Masonic degrees had been conferred by Lodges outside our borders, were being sent into the state for training. Appeals from Sister Jurisdictions for assistance in the matter of conferring degrees upon their candidates in this situation were pressing and no machinery was provided by our Constitution for assistance of candidates who had received no degrees. This Jurisdiction is one of the few in the United States which does not, and never has authorized one Lodge to confer the First degree for another, in or out of the state. What to do for ourselves for the sons of Masons who were entering the service and were soon to be dispatched overseas; for men, sons of Masons or otherwise, who were desirous of allying themselves with the fraternity and who had little or no time to attend upon lodges in ordinary course, sorely perplexed. What should be done to protect, stabilize, and upbuild the moral fibre and standard in the men thus turned from home, business, and ordinary pursuits and thrust into a new life under strange conditions, without safeguard, as it seemed, occupied the committee and required its most careful consideration. Nothing could be done without legislation, and the Constitution of the Grand Lodge provided that legislation could be enacted only at an Annual Communication. Another Annual Communication would not occur until May, 1918.

How to solve the problem was a sore trial.

Frequent sessions of the committee with the Grand Master were held during the summer of 1917, and resulted in the formulation of a report, bearing date of the 10th day of September, 1917, recommending, among other things, three salient points:

1. Adoption of war regulations looking to the abbreviation of formalities, in connection with the conferring of the degrees.

on candidates in the service and making possible the conferring of the three degrees in one session by special dispensation of the Grand Master, previously obtained;

2. The organization in cantonments, training camps, on vessels, in regiments or other military units, of Sea and Field Lodges, if the Grand Master should see fit, at home or abroad, with authority to make Masons, and under such regulations as to dual membership, or multiple membership, inspection, and control, as should seem proper, and the extension by all appropriate means through deputies, representatives, or otherwise to and among members of the fraternity engaged in the country's service, of the influence of Freemasonry, and the rendering to all sick and distressed such aid, comfort and relief as should seem best and proper; and

3. The prompt accumulation of a Masonic War and Relief Fund, of at least one million dollars, to prepare for the burden of dependent parents, widows and fatherless, which, it was anticipated, would soon become apparent.

To the end that these suggestions should be carried into effect and made legal, the Grand Master reconvened the 136th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, in session September 10, 1917; the report of the Committee on Plan and Scope was read, accepted, and its recommendations adopted.

Thus, machinery was devised, and preparation made for our own immediate needs, but the legislation did not extend so far as to provide a method of solving the problems of Sister Jurisdictions in respect of their men within our territorial borders. Lodges promptly and busily became engaged in Masonic service of all kinds under the war regulations, and could perform full and ample service for candidates from other Jurisdictions within our borders who had already been initiated. But there were large numbers of men within the state, and constantly more were coming, who had been elected but not initiated, and others who had not even been elected and who were most zealous in their quest for Light. The Grand Master early decided, owing, in part, to the experience which he discovered had been had with Military Lodges in the Civil War, against the establishment of Sea and Field Lodges with regiments or on ships. His inclina-

tion was strong in favor of the fostering of Masonic clubs or conferences among the men in the service overseas, but these, valuable as they might be, would not serve as an instrumentality for conferring Masonic degrees, nor would they afford, within the state of New York, a means of complying with, and satisfying, the prayers of Sister Jurisdictions for assistance.

By and with the advice of his Committee on Plan and Scope, he determined, by virtue of the power in him vested, and in pursuance of the spirit of the resolution of the Grand Lodge in re-convention respecting Sea and Field lodges, to organize Sea and Field Lodge No. 1, by his special warrant, as his own creature, with an extraordinary authority to meet the emergencies arising through the war, and on October 6, 1917, signed the warrant creating the Lodge and nominating its seven officers, sufficient to establish and equip an Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason Lodge, as might be necessary, from the Master to and including the Junior Deacon, with authority to hold Communications in the City of New York and elsewhere, as might be necessary, to adopt such by-laws and regulations for the governance of its proceedings and labor, subject to his approval, as it might see fit; to confer upon candidates who had been elected members of a regular chartered lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the state of New York and who had actually enlisted or been drafted or commissioned officers in the United States forces in the present great war, the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry without the usual interval and without the usual proof of suitable proficiency in preceding degrees; to elect, initiate, pass and raise, without the usual formalities and requirements of Chartered Lodges, candidates, residents of the state of New York who had actually enlisted or been drafted or commissioned officers in the United States forces in the present Great War, who applied therefor in writing and who satisfied the Master and Wardens of said Lodge that they were qualified, and who were about to be sent out of this Jurisdiction on duty; and to initiate, pass or raise candidates who had actually enlisted or been drafted or commissioned officers in the United States forces in the present Great War, residents of other states, who had been initiated or passed, or who, having

been elected members of regular lodges in their respective states, had not been initiated, upon request of the Grand Master. Membership or officership in said Lodge was expressly permitted, without affecting existing membership or fellowship in a regular Chartered Lodge.

The original warrant did not authorize this lodge to initiate for another lodge in the state of New York, but only to pass and raise candidates of such lodges, but, early in November, 1917, in compliance with obvious necessity therefor, a supplemental warrant covering authority to initiate for another lodge in the state of New York was issued, making the scope of the lodge's authority substantially as set forth in the above summary. The warrant designated as Master a Past Grand Master, most active in the affairs of the Craft in the state, and all the other officers designated were most actively concerned in the affairs of the Grand Lodge, and most, if not all, officers thereof.

The lodge being authorized to transact its business and conduct itself without the usual formalities and requirements of Chartered Lodges, devised its own ritual, patterned, essentially, after the standard ritual of the state of New York, with certain radical modifications suited to its necessities and purposes. It will be noted that its authority in respect to the election of candidates eliminates the ordinary methods of investigation and balloting, and substitutes satisfaction of the Master and Wardens as to the qualification of the candidates. All of its personnel are persons busily engaged in the affairs of life. It is without machinery to investigate or to instruct. Its method, without going into extensive detail, has been to satisfy itself of the desirability, from a high Masonic point of view, of material, and the approval in writing by the Master and Wardens, of the application is followed by a formal ballot by show of hands, the Lodge but formally ratifying, for the sake of the record, the primary act of approval by the Master and Wardens who are the sole arbiters.

It would be difficult for any Masonic genius, or company of geniuses, to contrive, in a brief space of time, by mere concentration and thought, without experience, a method of conduct and ritual and scheme of ceremonies which would be satisfac-

tory or adequate. Much thought was, of course, given to this subject before the Lodge sat, but, naturally, its method of performance has been a matter of development, and a composite of the judgment of those among its personnel most interested and qualified to advise. It sat first in the Scottish Rite Parlor in the Temple in New York on October 10, 1917, and conferred the three degrees in one session on five candidates, including a son of the then Grand Master. Since that date, it has sat thirty-five times, always in the City of New York, and has conferred the Degrees on 743 candidates, of whom 439 have been its own material, 185 candidates of lodges within the state of New York, and 119 candidates of lodges without the state. Fifty-seven of its candidates have been under the age of twenty-one years, all blood sons of Master Masons, for each of whom a special and separate dispensation was first granted by the Grand Master.

It has allied with itself as Associate Members all of the Grand Master's Committee on Plan and Scope, and certain additional members whose zeal and devoted service naturally identified them with the Lodge. Seventeen of its personnel are members of the War Relief Administration, lately organized by the Grand Lodge, to administer the War Relief Fund.

It was prophesied, before the Lodge first sat, that its service would be more holy, serious, and beneficial than that of any other Symbolic Lodge then known. The prophecy has been more than realized. The harmony, consecutiveness, propriety, and symbolism of its performance are conspicuously unique. Attendance at its functions is by invitation only. The performance of its service requires approximately three and a half hours. None come to scoff, but all stay to pray.

As is natural, the musical feature of its sessions is of a strikingly high order. Appropriate selections are used in the successive stages, which have been chosen with regard also to their symbolism and fitness to the lodge purposes.

The opening ceremonies include the carrying of the colors and the singing of two verses of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," the second verse composed in Canada since the commencement of the war, with particular reference to the men in the service, commencing, "God save our splendid men." In the first degree, at

the Reception, is sung, "Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah," to the tune "Autumn," suggesting to thoughtful men Fortitude, it being the air played by the band to stimulate brave men when the "Titanic" sank. The second section of the third degree opens with a verse of "I Would Not Live Alway," and the Lodge is closed with the hymn, "Oh, God Our Help in Ages Past." To each candidate for the first degree is presented an apron, and to each candidate who is served is presented a Bible in which is printed a pledge which each candidate is required to subscribe at the end of the ceremonies, but which is read to him and assented to immediately after his reception in the first degree, which is as follows:

"We undertake to maintain our part of the War free from hatred, brutality, or graft, true to the American purpose and ideals. Aware of the temptations incidental to camp life, and the moral and social wreckage involved, we covenant together to live the clean life and to seek to establish the American Uniform as a symbol and guaranty of real manhood.

"We pledge our example and our influence to make these ideals dominant in the American Army and Navy."

All the Lodge's surplus funds, over expenses, are devoted to the Grand Master's War Relief Fund, and it takes up, at each session, a Dole for this purpose. From both sources, the Fund has been enriched to date by more than \$6,500.

The legislation referred to at the opening of this account was the primary step taken by Freemasonry in the United States of America to meet the duties and opportunities resting upon it in this war, and while no other Jurisdictions, so far as the writer is aware, have met the situation as broadly and fully as has New York, a number have been inspired to take action along similar lines in certain respects. Three jurisdictions have organized Military Lodges attached to regiments. Several are engaged in raising funds and making plans for the administration thereof. Most have modified, for men in the service, the rigidity of the regulations respecting the interval between degrees and the requirement of proficiency, and some, which have not done this for themselves, have legislated to recognize and approve as valid for

them, Masonic service performed by Sea and Field Lodge No. 1 in accordance with its methods, which is valid in the state of New York.

It may safely be observed that men make Masonry; and it is better, by far, that this ancient love should be modified and modernized to suit the pressing needs of the time, than that its beneficent influence should be denied men in dire need of its kindly office because of inflexible adherence to tradition and ancient practice.

The good which this war service of Freemasonry has accomplished, is accomplishing, and will accomplish, is beyond any one's capacity to estimate. No harm of any kind has been, or can be suffered by Freemasonry as a result thereof. On the contrary, it has proven an ideal union between ministry, the ministers and those ministered to, to the glory of God and the eternal betterment of Mankind.

The Judge reminds me, and of course it will fascinate you to know that in the early autumn, when we got busy with our slow program of chasing submarines which were then beginning to threaten our coast, a flotilla of destroyers and submarine chasers, the first that departed as far as I remember from New York harbor, went out; they went out late on Saturday night, and on that Saturday afternoon we took on a large company of men, sons of Masons, who were in that flotilla, — all part of the personnel. Some of them, my brothers, we took on without more than an hour's notice, but their vouchers satisfied the Master and Wardens of Sea and Field Lodge. They took that pledge. They went through those ceremonies, and it does not make a bit of difference how many hours' notice they had, or we had, so serious and careful in detail were the members, the results will be the same precisely as respects what they got from Sea and Field Lodge or any other lodge that performed in that fashion, barring only the fact that when they stood in the East and received their instructions and when thereafter they sat on the North side of the lodge and received further instructions in regard to their duties, in the service of God and the country, to keep themselves clean above all things, the keen, strong, fearless,

moral lesson of personal purity, plainly stated to them, they took it with them to last the rest of their natural lives, with the distinct contract bound in their eyes, that they would make good.

Past Grand Master Scudder: May I interrupt here? Brethren, it was not known that these boys were about to sail; the government did not give the sailing date so they had but the shortest notice of their going. Many telegraphed for their fathers, and on that memorable occasion the fathers stood beside their boys soon going out into this winter's sea, on this great flotilla of American destroyers crossing the Atlantic, boats which, it was never supposed, could take such a journey as that. Into the darkness they went that night and their fathers were with them in the lodge room that evening when for the first time they saw Masonic Light which was to guide their future conduct. Can you conceive of that, can you conceive of the heart throbs which were there experienced by us all, and the inspiration—well, words can not describe it, but shut your eyes and think about it all and you will never forget it. It was a wonderful thing. They left us at 11 o'clock and at 1 o'clock the flotilla sailed, and the fathers stood and saw their boys march out. But they marched out with Masonry to sustain them. (Applause.)

Brother Prime: I do not know how much more you want to hear of this, my brothers; there is no end of it to say to you.

Grand Master Warlow: I would like to ask Brother Prime whether that is going to be printed as part of the minutes.

Brother Prime: It will be. I think I shall call your attention to other things. Have you patience still?

(Cries of "Go on!")

It is an awfully big story.

Brother Michie: Not so big as the cause!

Brother Prime: Not so big as the cause — not by far.

It is one thing for men to be fighting for that great big cause; it is another thing for men to be policing, the fight over, the cause won, and be on the town, as it were, with nothing to do. Even when the fight was on, even when with zest and the exaltation, as we call it, of the great fight and the great cause which the men felt there was peril. You doubtless know that there is a hospital outside Cambridge, started and built since this

war, built for syphilitics and nothing else — for officers and men; it is an extensive hospital. That is one of the consequences of war, when the men are kept up to a high pitch of morale by the very cause itself. Who can tell what is going to keep men to that high pitch when they have not that cause still exalting them and keeping them up? That is something we have to do overseas now, and it is tremendous work.

Here is a bit of verse written in England; I do not believe there is another copy in this country. It is called "Tragedy," a very few simple verses on a very serious subject. May I read some of them to you?

*Here is a story of youth
Unlessoned, that, searching for bliss,
Found joy in a courtesan's eyes
And death on the paint of her lips.*

*They met at the margin of dark,
Under the passionate bloom
Of lilacs, that stirred in the wind
To songs of young hopes of the spring.*

*She was veiled, but his chastity saw
The downcast look of the chaste:
A city had dulled him which seemed
As drear as a pasture in drought.*

*She dropped a white flower at his feet
In passing. He thought she was fresh
As the flower, for her words were as scent
When she took it again from his hand.*

*In her unguessable past
That voice had practised the lure
Of evil: her soul read his heart
And saw it was clear as a well.*

*Coyly she gazed at his face
Burnt brown as a saddle, and laughed:
Her look was as warm as a kiss;
At once he was clasped to her mind.*

*Praising his comeliness, she
Spoke words that are sweeter than grapes
To boys. Such a flatterer's spell
But seldom a stripling resists.*

*She whispered — "I wish I could pay
Some share of the debt that is owed
By women to heroes." He laughed,
Shook hands, and she offered her lips.*

*Few folk in the street gave him heed —
Most were unmindful and cold;
No wonder his fancy was stirred,
No wonder his vision grew dim!*

*So soft was her voice and so sweet
That his eyes, for a dozen years dry,
Filled, and he dropped on her veil,
A gift of invisible tears.*

*He listened to tangible love
Of which, but that morning, he dreamed
When, by a red-blossomed tree,
A rivulet suddenly flashed.*

*His tired limbs thrilled with the fire
Of a thought that was lit by the spring;
Manhood — superb in its strength —
Craved to make proof of the man;*

*And the seeds of a manhood to be
Cried out for existence that is —
Bade him perpetuate soul
And flesh as his fathers had done.*

*Certain and sure as the fall
Of rain, or the bursting of bloom,
Is Youth's response to the voice
Of love, in the vision of May.*

*"I worship you, girl, for that word,"
He whispered. "Then come with me, lad;*

*And welcome," she answered: "my love
Goes out to a boy who is lone."*

*Long ere he entered her room
He opened the door of his heart,
And let out his soul in the sweet
Of the night, and he gave it to her.*

*He spoke of the waratah flowers,
Of wattle and wonderful birds;
His voice was so full of his home
She shook and was hushed into shame.*

*He was a soldier; he rushed
Hither with passionate love
Of his race in the hot, blue light
Of courage that quickened his eyes.*

*But, in the heart-shaking dawn
Of battle, his glory had gone
The way of a leaf that is dropped;
His strength like a vapour had lapsed.*

*He heard the deep-bellowing mines
Far off, and the menacing roar
Of cannon, but blankly he lay
Half-slain, like a worm-eaten ram.*

*Not smitten by bullet or shell,
But secretly stricken by death:
A murrain unknown of his folk
Had mastered him, body and soul.*

*Under young leaves in sweet dusk,
Where lilacs breathed love, he exchanged
Sunbright enchantments of life
For cruel, black dreams of the grave.*

*In him there has perished a race
Of noble and generous folk:
Companions, who look at him now,
Grow cold in the heat of their rage.*

*He knew the distempers of sheep;
The plagues of his cattle and swine,
But little or nothing he knew
Of shameful disorders of Man.*

*Death in the guise of a girl
Met him with offerings: he
Took the intolerable gifts,
Prizing them as a reward:*

*And these were all that the land,
Which called to his chivalry, gave
Him who had come at its call
From the brighter side of the world!*

*Could death, such as enemies deal,
Be bitter as this? Nay, a friend
The savagest foe would appear
Who struck the life out of him now!*

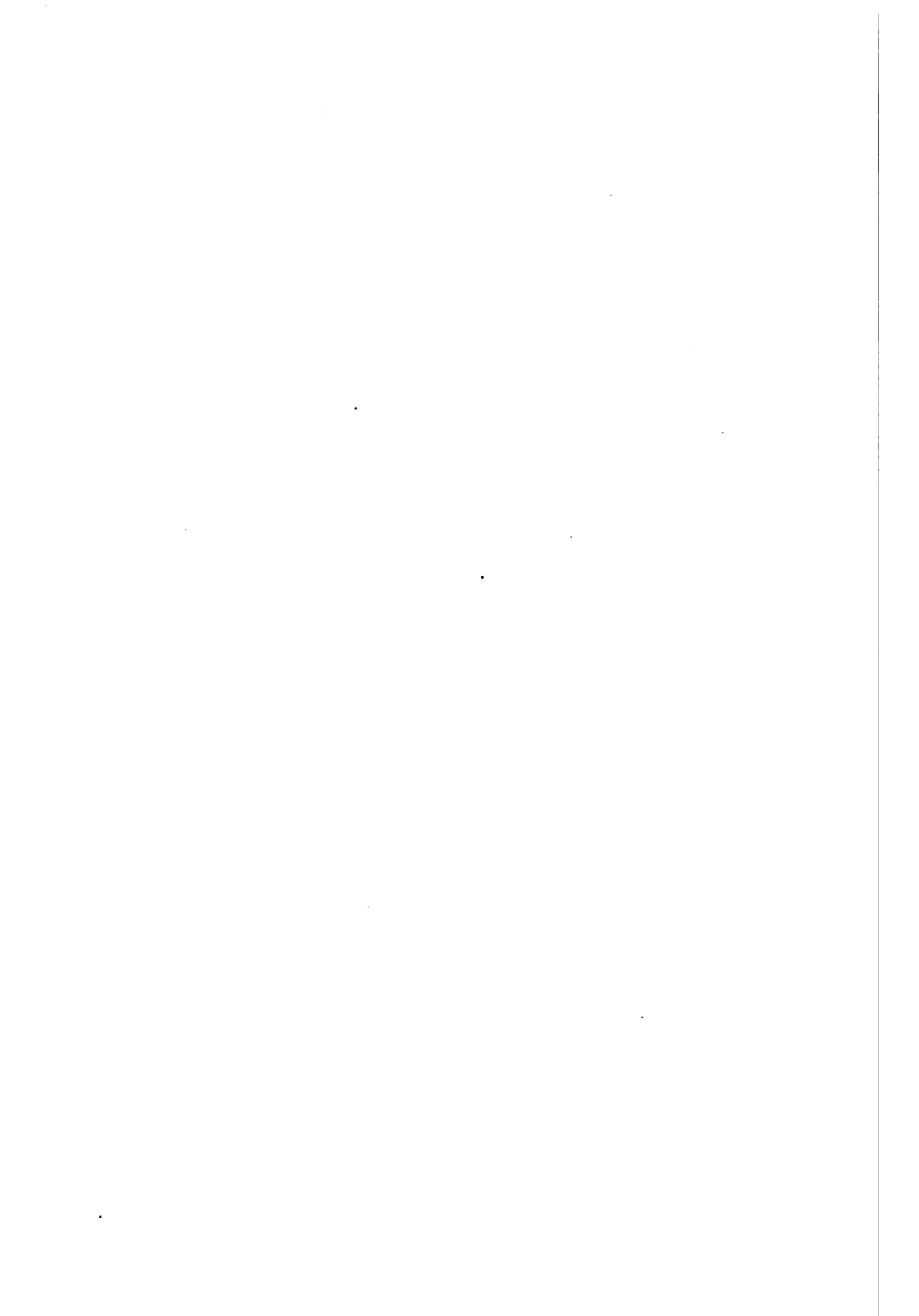
Brethren, that is some of the work we have to do overseas. It is more important now by a million fold that we should go and cherish and comfort and hold the hands of our brothers than it was when fighting was being done and when they were going over the top and coming back from hard work for recreation.

The vice-president of the United States said, as you doubtless recollect reading in the newspapers within three weeks or thereabouts, in connection with the drive for similar service overseas, "What would it avail the American people to save these men's lives and lose their souls?" He might just as well have added, "and lose their bodies," for what use is a physical, syphilitic wreck to you or to me, or to society? And that is some of the work that we are going to do.

We calculate to take at least a warrant for a Sea and Field Lodge overseas, which the Grand Master has been graciously pleased to sign and issue to this Commission, which will be clothed with all the authority that Sea and Field Lodge No. 1 has, and more, but the additional authority, I fancy, will not be exercised. It covers the matter of conferring degrees on boys



RECEPTION COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE



under the age of twenty-one years, sons of Master Masons, without going back to him and getting a special dispensation. I rather fancy the need of service of that kind is not sufficiently great to justify the extraordinary character of the service. The men's lives are not in peril, and I should fancy that would not be done. I am simply speaking individually, and not for the Commission. In that connection, may I say that I broached the subject to Massachusetts and Oregon after the conference in May last as to what their attitude would be towards Sea and Field overseas taking over Massachusetts or Oregon material in France, in the event of their applying and asking to be taken on, without a waiver and without a request and without consent, and both Massachusetts and Oregon said, frankly, bravely, joyfully, — "Take them on; for God's sake, take them on! Explain it afterwards." Their theory being if we took them on, they would naturally, if they survived, gravitate into Massachusetts or Oregon and would then justify the acceptance of themselves, and if they found a habitat in Massachusetts or Oregon they would affiliate, and if they did not they would go out of being when Sea and Field went out of being overseas, or have to find a habitat somewhere else. In other words, a man's status after the service was over would have to depend on his qualities.

Have any of you gentlemen read, by any chance, the current number, the December number, of the *Metropolitan Magazine*? Apparently none of you have. Have you, Brother Dana?

Past Grand Master Dana (Rhode Island): No, I have not.

Brother Prime: I want to know because I want to know how new this will be to you. This is a story of Kipling's; you know Kipling is a Mason. I do not know whether Kipling has ever been a Master of a lodge or officer of a lodge, but his activity as a Mason, as far as I know, was out in India. You remember how singular was his appreciation of the quality of men and women in that strange and wonderful story of his which he called "The Naulahka" which he wrote before he married, and I presume you will remember your feelings, as I do my own, of wonder at a man who had never been a father, presumably, at a man who had never been a father and certainly never had been a moth-

er — possessing such wonderful, wonderful insight, appreciating that the most perfect joy in life was to bear a man child, and the most exquisite sorrow in life that was possible for humans to experience was to have that man child die and be a childless Hindoo widow. And he, a lad of approximately twenty-six, I think, unmarried, when he wrote that wonderful tale!

Grand Master Schoonover's call for this meeting was as providential, as inspired, divinely inspired, as the transition from Operative to Speculative Masonry. That that call should have been issued in October last, or thereabouts, for this date, when if we believe in pre-destination it was arranged that the war should come to an end on the 11th day of November, 1918, and this important, new situation would be in hand for handling, wholly different from the situation which presented itself at the May conference in New York, — I say it is divinely inspired, and I believe that it was not less inspired that our Brother Kipling should write a tale like this to be told to you tonight, for this shows another phase of Masonic activity among men in the service, of a kind that is impelling.

I will not read the beginning of it but it begins with an experience of the writer, probably Kipling, in a tobacconist's shop in London, fussing about a pipe with an old chap named Burges. While he is talking with him about the pipe, suddenly a man in service comes in and says:

(The speaker here read from the article entitled, "In the Interests of the Brethren," by Rudyard Kipling, in the December, 1918, issue of the *Metropolitan Magazine*.)

Brethren, that is inspiring. It fits this situation wonderfully. Those Y. M. C. A. men told us, among other things, that the Australian Y. M. C. A. had taken on the Aldwych Theater in King's Way, London, the New Zealanders had taken on another enterprise of a similar character in London, I do not remember just what it was, and various things of that kind are being done. They run the men from place to place, to lodging houses in busses, and they have pullers in on the streets of London, all over the place, to pull the men in from the harlots that would have them to go to hell.

That is what Masonry can do for our boys, to keep them on the path of virtue, if anything on earth will. My brothers, that

is what, among other things, should be done in the overseas work, which New York proposes. The files of Sea and Field Lodge Number One are filled with letters received from men in Oregon, and from all over the United States, from fathers of youngsters in the service asking as to whether their boys can be taken into Masonry in France; from men who have gone over there half baked or not baked at all, as to whether they can get their degrees over there; and my private file of papers of that kind is probably an inch thick.

The Judge and I have been waiting all summer to get away overseas, and, please God, we are going soon. The Grand Master has made up his mind, as I understand it, that it is time to warrant overseas lodges of a regular character, so far as the method of performing their service is concerned, among discreet Masons, and give them full authority not only to hold lodges of instruction, not only to hold ordinary Masonic intercourse, but to make Masons. That is a service of God that must be and can be and will be performed.

Question: How broad and how extensive shall be the scope of this overseas service? (Applause.)

Past Grand Master Scudder: Brother Chairman, when we were discussing this overseas work with the officials of the Y. M. C. A., the question of the number of Masons in their service as secretaries was taken up, and they were very keen to know just whom they did have who were Masons, and the number, because they rather felt if we became interested with them that knowledge would be of very great help to us as well as a great help to them, and we see the virtue in that.

It would be a rather difficult thing, I take it, for us to ascertain definitely just what men we have, Masons, who are Y. M. C. A. secretaries; and yet it may be found that an easy way will be discovered to obtain that information. We have gathered statistics in New York so we know with fair accuracy whom we have in the service of the United States. This information was gathered at some little expense of labor, but it is not too difficult a thing for the average secretary of the average lodge, who knows in one way or another who have gone and for what purpose they have gone, to get the facts and transmit them.

Now, I am going to offer a resolution with reference to the

obtaining of this information, for it occurs to me that perchance it may be possible for our executive commission to obtain that information, and if they can get us the names and the lodges from which they hail, of Masons who are Y. M. C. A. secretaries on the other side, it will wonderfully help our work under this new arrangement, which is so sympathetic from the standpoint of the Y. M. C. A.

"Resolved, That the executive commission be invited to obtain the names of all men who are Masons and are serving as Y. M. C. A. secretaries, for use of the overseas mission."

Of course, how you go about it, or how effective our efforts may be or can be, I cannot suggest; but if you would undertake this as a part of your work it would be a tremendous aid to those who go overseas to undertake the work which we feel is impelling there.

Past Grand Master Watres: To whom should we send those names?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Of course, they should be sent to the overseas mission. We will endeavor to keep in touch with you here, but if it happens that you obtain any of this information, if you would communicate it to the New York member of the commission, Brother Kenworthy, he, of course, will always be in close cable touch with us, and we with him.

I move the adoption of the resolution.

Past Grand Master Watres: I second it.

(The motion was put to a vote and unanimously prevailed.)

Grand Secretary Stockwell: May I suggest a simple way of obtaining this, Mr. Chairman? I happen to be chairman of the personnel committee of the Y. M. C. A. in North Dakota. I think if you will get in touch with the personnel committee in each of your states you can easily find out what you desire, and they can supply you readily with the names of the men who have been drafted from the various states.

I think in Minnesota, for instance, the committee has its headquarters in St. Paul, and in Iowa they would probably be at Des Moines. There is, however, a state personnel committee in every state, and in some of the larger cities there are personnel

committees in the cities. They can give you the names of the men from the various states drafted into service as Y. M. C. A. secretaries overseas.

Grand Master Schoonover: I think that is a very good suggestion.

Now, brethren, I have promised one of our brothers who has been very active here with us to give him a few moments in which to tell us another story which links up very closely in a patriotic way with what we have been doing.

Before I do that, I have been making special orders of business here every chance I got, and I think that tomorrow morning, having Brother Prime's splendid statement of the situation in mind, we should come here prepared to discuss as a special order of business, if you please, the question of the manner in which tangible support is to be afforded to our New York brethren. I mean dollars, and in some cases, men. While they have not requested it, I know very well that they will appreciate a discussion on our part of this problem. They may have suggestions to offer us, certainly we will have some from the rest of the group; and I shall ask them at the same time to endeavor, if it is possible, to give us in the morning some sort of an idea of what their needs, so far as they can anticipate them, will be, in a financial way. We will make that, if you please, the prime object of our discussion in the morning, and I think it is a very important one.

I wonder, Brother Prime, if you caught what I said to you?

Brother Prime: I did not get what you said, Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Grand Master Schoonover: I said that in the morning we would make it a special order of business here to discuss the tangible form in which our coöperation financially and otherwise with your commission shall be carried out, and that if possible we would like very much to have from you, so far as you can anticipate it, some estimate of the probable cost of carrying on this work, and perhaps on different scales if you have worked it out that way. I do not know whether you have or not. But, if you will consult on this proposition so we may have some idea of it, I will appreciate it greatly.

Brother Prime: At dinner tonight we talked very briefly on the subject of the resolution as to funds which was adopted on Brother Homer's suggestion before we adjourned, at which time he suggested five cents per capita. He pledged Maryland for one thousand dollars, and Grand Master Farmer pledged New York for one thousand dollars, and other pledges of a similar character were made, which, of course, would be excessive in amount to cover the ordinary expense of administration in this country for clerical and other work, except in case of need arising requiring a larger fund. But if, on the other hand, five cents per capita is uniformly furnished to the commission which is now empowered to administer this emergency service for the benefit of the Craft, I understand New York will not hesitate to give five cents, which will furnish ten thousand dollars, approximately, and with the others furnishing five cents per capita likewise, on possibly two million members, this will furnish all the necessary funds to carry on a very extensive overseas service. That is rather a guess, but I think it is a safe one.

Grand Master Schoonover: I do not believe we ought to talk in nickels, and I am not going to talk to my Grand Lodge in nickels in any event.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Most Worshipful Grand Master, and Brother Chairman, we learned this from the Y. M. C. A., that the annual average expense of running their huts, as they call them — not the building of the huts, and we are not going into the building business; our work is to be confined as it has to be under the governmental regulations, to the recreation centers. Doubtless we shall be able to hire the quarters which we require for our purposes; and in discussing that matter with these gentlemen of the Y. M. C. A., they told us, if I remember correctly, that the average cost of what they call their huts after they establish them was from ten thousand dollars to fifteen thousand dollars a year.

Now, if there are ten or twelve leaveareas, where the men go to relax, large cities where there are attractions and all that kind of thing, and we desire to establish one hut in each city, it is quickly seen about what the annual expense will be.

On the other hand, it may readily be, and I think it is prob-

able that it will be, that there will be a curtailment of the number of leaveareas. They only had some five last summer. They had intended to have fifteen altogether. That was when it was assumed the war was going on and we were going to have four million soldiers over there. That number is reduced, we are told, to a standing army of approximately 1,200,000, and I lean to the belief that the leaveareas probably will be reduced proportionately, and that perhaps there will not be over seven or eight. If that is the case, and if we feel that Masonry should have a footing in each one of these, why, if we multiply by approximately fifteen thousand dollars, the number, whatever it may be, that is going to represent the annual cost.

Of course, if New York went over alone, our plan then was to find out which were the biggest leaveareas. If Paris is one — and it has not been heretofore, for the reason that Paris is a place rather difficult to control, we intended to make our headquarters there. Those of you who have been there know the conditions; even under the military régime Paris is somewhat difficult to keep in harness. It has followed that Paris has not been a center where the American soldiers have been permitted to go. The officers have been permitted to go there, and it happens that we have a very large percentage of officers who are Masons, so we have thought we would establish in Paris our main headquarters, from which would radiate our various activities, and those headquarters would partake of the nature, very largely, of an Officers' Club. True, the door would be open for everybody, but needless to say, a building conducted under Masonic auspices would probably be found a more pleasing place for Masons than it would for — shall I say our brethren of the Roman Catholic faith? So while they are open and have to be open to every one (and we would not have it otherwise) none the less it will happen that Masons will drift toward their own.

There is a rather large leavearea at Aix les Bains, there is one at Brest, and there is one at St. Nazaire. Those are the main ones, as we understand it now, and some of the others which had a beginning will probably have a very quick ending. Therefore, I do not think we have to concern ourselves with a

very great number, but that will depend upon the conditions we find when we get there. But were this overseas work confined to New York alone, our idea was Paris; Aix les Bains, by all means, for it is a very excellent one to go to; Brest undoubtedly, for there we would touch everybody; and probably St. Nazaire, because it so happens that those ports have been made the great ports of landing where the merchandise and all the materials go and we would be able to serve not only the soldiers but the sailors as well, the men on the merchantmen, and a tremendous aggregation of people among whom we would find a very great number of Masons.

That is the situation. Of course, we appreciate perfectly that you gentlemen are not in a position to make pledges here. This is a work that has to be taken up at home. We do not know whether you have raised your war funds to make them available for this purpose. We know there have been regular campaigns instituted where war chests or war relief funds have been raised. We take it that those funds are more or less under the domination or control or the guardianship of officers or committees who have some power or discretion to relieve need. Whether or not some of you have such funds which are available to contribute to this overseas fund, we do not know. We know, of course, that no pledges can be made here which can be binding, as we understand it, except it be that there are Grand Masters who have funds placed in their hands with power.

We did think that perhaps a roll call could be had and we could find out whether or not there are Grand Lodges here who feel that they do want to contribute to this work, and that knowledge would be of very vast help. It might possibly be that we could as individuals agree to use our enterprise and our persuasive powers at home to have them agree upon a standard rate per capita to contribute to this cause, to be paid out from time to time or to be paid in from time to time, as the need for it might be made patent by the requisitions from the other side. We do think it would be wise to test the sentiment of this gathering here to the end that we may know at least how many present here feel that they want to go into this work, and if they should go into it, whether they have any suggestions to

make with reference to the basis upon which they shall go into it. With that much knowledge we can go ahead and make the most of it. We do not intend to wait until funds come to us.

We are going to start the thing on our own hook along the lines which I have indicated, covering as much ground as we possibly can, and we will be more than pleased for such assistance as you may be able to give us, both in the way of men and, if you see fit, in the way of funds, but this much we have thought, and the Y. M. C. A. also, that it would be a wise thing if they could know positively and we knew positively which men who were Y. M. C. A. secretaries, were Masons also, and from these to a large extent we will draw for the operation of our plants over there, and that may save the addition of perhaps a considerable number of men and at the same time possibly by adding a few here and there, we can also greatly increase their efficiency. Of course, the details have not been worked out. They could not be worked out, and the Y. M. C. A. did not ask us to work them out. All they asked us to do was "come along with us now." "You are more than welcome. We understand you now. We did not understand you before. The work you want to do is a splendid one, and you cannot sail too quick." That is the situation.

Brother Prime has explained to you the financial end of it and the proposed system of accounting. The payment would be made through that same system and we would pay only for what we got. We would have available for us all the attractions that the Y. M. C. A. offers. For those attractions which the Y. M. C. A. offers in the way of movies and all that sort of thing, we would pay according to the standard price; that is the estimated cost to the Y. M. C. A. of each one of their several attractions and we will select what attractions we want. In other words, as they have it organized over there, they have what you might call traveling troupes making the rounds and they know the cost of the service of these troupes for each performance, and that is all standardized, so we would be in the position where we could cut our cloth to suit our pocket book, and we could use such attractions as we wanted and the others we need not take. It puts us on a basis where we will have

available every resource they possess, and we can discriminate and take such of their sources and means of entertainment as we think would cater to the tastes of the men, and on the other hand offer such comforts of home, support, friendship, and moral upholding as are within our reach.

Now, that in a general way is what the plan is, so you see it has a certain amount of elasticity to it because, if we are poor, we will conduct it on that basis. If on the other hand we find we can make it more attractive by the use of more funds, we can always advise you to that effect, and those funds you will supply to us according to your belief as to whether it is wise to go in thus expensively.

We are not going over there with any extravagant ideas or any notion of throwing money away. We want every cent to count, but what we do want to do over and above everything else is to try to supply to those boys the comfort of Masonic association and contact. We want to try to be there to take, as far as we can, upon ourselves the duty of mother and father and family; to supply as far as we can a place that they can call their own. They cannot come home on leave, as the English do and the others do, whose homes are nearby. They have to go to these leaveareas and there they have just got themselves to rub up against, and we want in those places to have at least a headquarters, a center that those boys will feel is theirs, the best substitute for home that we can give; we want our boys to know that right there at work in those places are men who love them and sympathize with them, know their temptations, their trials and troubles, and men who are going to try to help them and are not going to turn their backs upon them, even if they do stub their toes and fall. (Applause.)

Grand Master Hughes (Delaware): Most Worshipful Grand Master, the question has been asked here if this is to be free service to our boys, if there will be any cost to them for this entertainment, or anything of that kind which is furnished.

Grand Master Schoonover: The brother asks if there is to be any cost to our brethren.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Not a cent. Everything will be free, just the same as we have it down in New York, every-

thing free. Everybody comes. We do not ask whether they are Masons or not. It is all free.

Grand Master Hughes: We do hear occasionally that the Y. M. C. A. have certain charges.

Past Grand Master Scudder: In our New York Club they do not pay for their towels for their baths or their soap.

Deputy Grand Master Robinson (New York): We had 161 on one Sunday taking baths.

Past Grand Master Dana: Mr. Chairman, may I ask just one question to get it clear in our minds? Will all the activities and plans of our New York brethren have to be submitted to the Young Men's Christian Association for approval before you enter into plans and activities on the other side?

Brother Prime: We shall have a conference with them which will indicate to them the extent of what we intend to do. We shall endeavor to work in perfect harmony with them as to what we can properly do, as to how far or extensive our work will be. We will be in sole control of our work, — the work that we determine we can best perform, — and do it ourselves.

We shall go in the first instance to direct the work, and plan what shall be done, and put persons in charge of it as directors of the various places where they can best work, particularly at Paris, to take charge of it and have charge of it after we necessarily return.

As I suggested before when I was first explaining this thing, we are subject to them with respect to our discretion and common sense, and our performance according to their standards and their requirements. We submit to the same regulation which the government requires of them.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Those are their requirements.

Past Grand Master Dana: I would like to ask one other question in reference to rooms and quarters that you will provide over there. I understand that all of those headquarters will have to bear the insignia of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Brother Prime: All of them will.

Past Grand Master Dana: With the addition of some form of Masonic insignia.

Brother Prime: They did not care for the idea of our private insignia or the square and compass being under the triangle on the outside of the building, in the same relation to it; that, they considered would not conform probably to governmental regulations under which they have to work; but it was distinctly agreed that there would be a plain and perfectly visible plate or inscription in the space which we might select, on the door or on the side of the door, or over the fireplace, indicating that it was maintained and fathered and paid for by the Freemasons in America.

Past Grand Master Dana: Then you will also have the privilege of having some of those quarters dedicated for this Masonic work that you intend to do?

Brother Prime: As I understand it, substantially all the work that we would be in charge of would be primarily for Masons, but would also be for everyone and they would be under our charge and control. So far as any Masonic service is concerned, it would not be in those quarters.

Past Grand Master Dana: You would have to provide separate quarters.

Brother Prime: We would have to provide our own.

Past Grand Master Dana: For your Sea and Field lodges?

Brother Prime: Yes.

Past Grand Master Dana: That would have to be in a separate place?

Brother Prime: That would have to be in a separate place.

Past Grand Master Scudder: In that connection we might add that England, which has established a lodge in Paris, and some other lodges which have been established, have invited us to make ourselves at home in their quarters. We can dovetail in there.

Past Grand Master Dana: I wanted that simply to be made clear, so I could explain it at home. I understood it that way before.

Grand Master Schoonover: Now, brethren, I think that subject has been well introduced here, and it is worthy of our consideration in the morning. We will take it up then, more particularly from our individual point of view.

Grand Master Homer: Will our brethren from New York be here in the morning?

Grand Master Schoonover: Certainly. They promised to eat Turkey with us on Thanksgiving Day.

Past Grand Master Scudder: We did intend to leave, because we had engagements which prompted our doing so, but we have also felt that no engagement of ours was as important as is this, and we are going to stay here just so long as we feel we can be of the least assistance and help. (Applause.)

Grand Master Schoonover: I mentioned a moment ago that it was my intention to give a brother here an opportunity to say something in regard to a matter which, from a patriotic standpoint, touches very closely the work we are doing and have done at this session. I am now going to invite the brother who pledged his own pocketbook to back up his own Grand Lodge. I do not know his basis of banking, I don't know whether he has an interest book with him or not, but be that as it may, he is here, and he has performed a great service for us by being here, because he has given substantial proof of the thing I said yesterday morning about every one of those Grand Lodge Temples of the Spirit being a replica of every other, and it is as true of Pennsylvania as of any other. (Applause.) And I know it.

I want to introduce to you now Brother Watres, who has a word for us I know. (Applause.)

Past Grand Master Watres: Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren: The Grand Master has entirely misunderstood me. I did say to him that I thought the subject so near to his heart and with which he is so entirely familiar, ought to be presented to this splendid assemblage from all over the country, and I think now it ought, but I thought then and I think now that he should be the one who should say it. I would much prefer that he should, because he is entirely familiar with the details of it, has done much work concerning it, and I know he can say it better than I can.

Grand Master Schoonover: I pass the buck, Brother Watres.

Past Grand Master Watres: Well, I will say a word to perhaps give expression to a thought I have before I speak of the subject to which he referred.

This has been to me a most interesting occasion and I know it has been to all of you a marvelous gathering. We have had photographs taken, we have had our records printed, but there are some things you cannot photograph and some things you cannot put in print. The opening of this session was one of those things that you cannot photograph. The prayer offered by the brother, if you dare say that a prayer can be a classic, was a classic. It reached the omnipotent ear, it touched all of our hearts. The address of welcome by the brother was superb in its hospitality. Everything that has taken place has been appealing. You could not photograph the cross which rose from the desk, nor could you put on the record the flag or the music. They will all be memories which we will take back with us, photographed upon our minds but which could not be put upon canvas or upon paper.

You cannot picture or photograph inspiration. We have sat here every one of us wrapt in interest at what has been said by our brethren from New York. They have performed a service to Freemasonry for which I hope some day they will receive due credit. It has put to shame Masons who have been sitting still doing nothing. I glory in their Masonry.

I thought as the brother read from the *Metropolitan* he read something which came from Micah, as I recall it, and what he read was the same thing that Whittier — I do not know whether Whittier was a Mason or not, but he should have been — referred to, and the thing that he said about it really reflects what the Grand Lodge of New York has done. Referring to Micah, and I know Whittier had just read Micah when he wrote that little poem entitled, "Requirement." You may be familiar with it:

*“What asks our Father of his children
Save justice and mercy and humility,
A reasonable service of good deeds,
Pure living, tenderness of human needs,
Reverence and trust, and prayer for light to see
The Master’s footprints in our daily ways?
No knotted scourge nor sacrificial knife,
But the calm beauty of an ordered life*

*Whose very breathing is unworded praise! —
A life that stands as all true lives have stood,
Firm rooted in the faith that God is good."*

I could not help but feel that these brethren had put into being, and into a living, throbbing, pulsating action the sentiment expressed in Micah and by that splendid New England poet.

I challenge any gathering from anywhere to come together as this gathering has, with minds diverse, along some lines, with perhaps some T. N. T. or whatever you call it in the assemblage somewhere, to get together as we have gotten together. The dawn of a new day in Masonry has been accomplished, and too much credit cannot be given to our beloved chairman for what he has done in getting us here. (Applause.)

But I am not going to deliver an address.

(Cries of "Go on.")

Let me come down to the subject which I know he has near his heart, and which I have and other members here have, to-wit, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.

It is an association which ought to be near to the heart of every Mason. On the 22nd of February, 1911, there gathered at the city of Alexandria an assemblage of Masons from all over the United States. They organized an association whose name I have just mentioned. Brother Shryock, who as you know just passed away, after having served thirty-two or thirty-three years as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, was its president. One vice president comes from South Carolina; one from Michigan; one from Iowa — our Brother Schoonover; one from Boston; the secretary from Alabama; the treasurer from Kentucky — an organization fairly well distributed through the country.

They adopted a constitution and by-laws. From time to time and every year since then they have met on the 22nd of February at the City of Alexandria. The brethren there, of Alexandria — Washington Lodge Number 22, have always been most hospitable. They have that southern hospitality of which you all know. They purchased a site, a beautiful site on the Poto-

mac, and by the way, it is the site which Jefferson originally selected for the capitol at Washington, and a site that Washington turned down because he owned the land surrounding it, and he thought it might not look well to have the land that Jefferson picked out selected, and it was by him rejected.

They started out to raise money upon different plans, and they already have raised in cash and pledges in the neighborhood of \$120,000. Seventy odd thousand dollars of that money has been paid in and it is invested in Liberty Bonds. The other amount is good and will be paid when required. My own lodge, at its last annual communication, pledged themselves for \$10,000, which is in the \$120,000 to which I refer.

This year was given over, not to securing money, but to perfecting an organization, and thanks to the ability, the skill and the attention to detail of Vice President Schoonover there has been formulated a plan which when completed will, I believe, be a complete plan to reach every Master Mason in the United States, and a part of that plan as you know has been made a part of your plan in the resolution adopted this morning.

I do not need to urge any of you to take an interest in this institution. Masons do not need to be urged to do their duty. I believe it to be their duty to take a personal interest in this organization. Peace has now been declared, and in the nature of things Washington will be, perhaps, the central city of the civilized world, and it is very fitting that there Masons should erect upon this site to which I refer a memorial to Washington, the Mason, one that shall contain the valuable relics which have thus far been kept and preserved by his lodge, Alexandria — Washington Lodge No. 22, as well as to preserve the valuable records of Masonry throughout the United States.

We cannot hope to add to the renown of him whose only glory was his country's good. We cannot add to the splendor of the sun by all the artificial lights in the world, nor increase the ocean by adding Niagara. Neither can the fame of Washington be more effulgent by eulogy, brick or mortar. He stands serene amid the strife of the world, and he stands there as the great American whom we are all proud to hail and revere as a Mason.

In all his lofty attributes may be discerned the ideals of Ma-

sonry. Nature made him a great soul and strong, with a strength of those imperishable, manly qualities which are so fitting, and so fittingly become a true Mason. By his practice of those principles in every relation of his life, he has stamped it with his approval and left us an example of fidelity to its tenets which endears him in our memory. (Applause.)

Brother Michie: Might I ask our brother who has just spoken, in a very few words to tell the brothers who do not know, how easily they may become members of this George Washington Memorial Association? I am proud to say South Carolina has taken all the memberships that were allotted to them, and has subscribed some \$5,000 besides.

Grand Master Schoonover: I take it, Brother Michie, the tribute which Brother Watres has just paid to Brother Washington, the man who, as you know, refused to be made Grand Master of Masons of all America, is not out of place in these minutes. I felt it that way and I feel it so now.

So far as the problems of finance are concerned, of that association, we are a little bit pressed at times, I have something I want to say which perhaps will be just as interesting and we will let that association father its own children. I beg your pardon for that handling of it, but I do not want to forget this.

I had a request made to me a while ago by a brother whom we have come to love, and I cannot fulfill that request. The brother who has come here and has, by the power of his intellect and the wealth of his spirit been an inspiration to us all, asked me to indite one of these little volumes as follows:

“To my brother, Townsend Scudder III, aged eighteen years, two months and fourteen days, and perhaps the youngest Freemason in the world; also to all appearances an upright man. May he ever walk and act as such before God and man.”

I cannot comply with that request, but I will indite this, and present this book to be taken to that son:

“To my brother, Townsend Scudder III, aged eighteen years, two months and fourteen days, and perhaps the youngest Freemason in the world. Also an upright son of an upright father, for the son of such a father can be none other than upright. May he ever walk and act as such before God and man.”

I have signed my name to it and I do not know but I might add, perhaps, "the youngest Grand Master of Masons in America, to the youngest Mason." I do not know about that, but Brother Scudder —

Grand Master Homer: I think I can claim that privilege. I was installed a week ago tonight. (Laughter.)

Grand Master Schoonover: I guess the point is well taken, and I will eliminate it. Brother Scudder, this is the kind of inscription in this little book which I would like you to take to that son of yours as my personal gift. (Applause.)

(The members of the Conference present joined in singing, "Blest be the tie that binds.")

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, my heart is thumping like a trip hammer tonight.

I have no language to tell you what your action today means to me, because it has all been done in behalf of the Masonry which I love, in which I was fearful of being disappointed, but of which I am tonight an exalted member. I doubt not that some of you came here fearful lest some action would be taken which would be so un-Masonic as perhaps even to engender hate between brethren; if not that, at least distrust. Perhaps you did. Perhaps you came here feeling that this meeting was to go essentially wrong. Perhaps a few brethren have stayed away with that feeling. For them I feel only pity, that they have not been here to enjoy this wonderful communion. It is not all over. There are some good things to follow, but there is a little sentiment, a little quatrain which has been written by an American poet who is a Mason, which I think tells the whole story. It is by Edwin Markham:

*"He drew a circle that shut me out,
Heretic, rebel, — a thing to flout;
But love and I had the wit to win,
We drew a circle that took him in."*

(Applause.)

And I think that with that sentiment in our hearts we are ready to go to sleep again, smiling. Brethren, let us be dismissed until tomorrow at say 9.30 o'clock so we may have our

turkey on time as a bountiful Thanksgiving, internally and externally.

Grand Master Gross: I simply want to say, coming from the smallest state in the Union, that I want to assure the New York delegation of our support in their work. We have a fund of quite considerable size for war purposes. This money was raised originally for the use of Rhode Island Masons and their dependents. We discovered after a while that that was a selfish use to keep that fund for, and broadened the powers of our war board so as to use it for the purpose of entertainment and relief of Masons of other jurisdictions within our borders.

We now see a need to use that for a still broader purpose, and I can assure you that any money which will be needed from us will be forthcoming from that fund. (Applause.)

Grand Master Schoonover: We will stand adjourned.

(Whereupon the Conference at 9:30 P.M., November 27, 1918, adjourned until 9:30 o'clock A.M., November 28, 1918.)

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

NOVEMBER 28, 1918, 10:45 O'CLOCK

The closing session convened at 10:45 A. M. Grand Master Schoonover in the chair.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, it is now nine-thirty. Let us come to order promptly. (Laughter.)

I do not think any of us knew that we had a real poet in our party. It has been revealed here this morning. I hold in my hand the card of Brother Leon Cash, one of the Grand Custodians of North Carolina, who, from the correspondence received, was expected here but who has been represented by Brother Grady. Now, Brother Grady has prepared a little sentiment to send to him along with this card, and I think it is worth while to devote the time to reading it so that we can tell the other fellows who did not come what they have missed. Brother Grady says:

*"I wonder why the divil
This fellow didn't come;
'Twas scarcely sane or civil
For him to stay at home.*

*But in Masonic charity
We filled his seat with love
And roses, in their rarity,
Like incense from above."*

(Applause.)

Brother Atchison, who is my guardian, used to be in the telegraph business and has learned to conscript the nickels by putting in various and sundry abbreviations. He somewhere got the idea that I was in error in stating that Georgia and Alabama were both meeting yesterday, so he took the time to look it up and found that Alabama meets next week. He found that Georgia was supposed to close yesterday, and it being five o'clock

by the time we were ready to send them anything, he wired down to our good friend Joseph C. Greenfield to find out just when they were going to close before sending that long telegram embodying the Constitution, etc. There was shoved under my door this morning, shortly before nine-thirty, the following telegram:

**"Grand Lodge closed today. Endorsed your convention unreservedly. Authorized Grand Master to appropriate funds needed.
Joseph C. Greenfield."**

(Applause.)

So Georgia had some faith in us.

Past Grand Master Dana: Is not that the first Grand Lodge to ratify the Constitution?

Grand Master Schoonover: They are No. 1. (Applause.)

Now, we have the minutes of the conference of yesterday, including all that was done in the afternoon. The minutes of the evening session will be delayed about an hour, according to my good friend and brother, Brewer. I just want to say, brethren, that Brother Brewer stayed up practically all night for the last two nights, and his good wife with him, correcting proof of our minutes. Brother Brewer, by virtue of his attainments and his Masonic enthusiasm, would be a worthy delegate in this body, but chooses to sit down in his little sanctum sanctorum at The Torch Press and read minutes for us in order that we may have these little conveniences.

I think that is the spirit of the Masonic Service Association, and before we get through I want to read into the minutes due credit, not only to these brethren, but to all of these brethren who have so kindly helped us and have stayed up so we may be accommodated. These poor boys here [indicating the reporters] did not get any sleep last night, I guess, but they will get some bye and bye.

Now, there are one or two things which are to be re-arranged this morning. We have had a night to think over these things, and our Commission met last night and discussed some of the problems which are in the minutes here. I think Brother McPherson has one matter to present.

Grand Master McPherson: Mr. Chairman, I have just noticed now that there were ten divisions or ten districts laid out

under this plan. I had not noticed it until it was called to my attention this moment. We have also noticed that on the far west coast, the Pacific Coast, there is no representative, and I believe it would be advisable, and several of the others have thought so, to enlarge the committee, and I move that the committee or commission be enlarged, not to exceed in all fifteen, the commission to be filled at the discretion of the chairman; that the quorum of this Commission consist of five, which must include the chairman or vice chairman.

Grand Secretary Davilla (Louisiana): Second the motion.

Grand Master Schoonover: You have heard the motion. As many as favor it will signify by the usual voting sign of a Mason.

Contrary, the same sign.

(The motion prevailed.)

I want to say that at the session of the Commission last night, we elected Brother Robert J. Kenworthy of New York as vice chairman, and we elected Brother Homer of Maryland as treasurer.

We have had quite a discussion both in the committee and I think among the brethren generally on two points: One is in connection with the publicity which shall be given to this meeting, and the other is with reference to a disclaimer or denial formally in the record that there is or has been any intention whatsoever here to form or take steps which might be considered to lead up to the formation of a General Grand Lodge.

So far as I am personally concerned, I had hoped that it would not be necessary to read into our minutes the name of that awful bugaboo, except as I tried to kick it out in my opening address. But that is a sentimental thing, and we must not let sentiment rule our conscience. To my mind, to speak of a General Grand Lodge after what has been done here, is in fact a backward step. I think that the conception that is behind this Association as it is now tentatively formulated, is on a plane clear above the plane upon which a General Grand Lodge would rest. In the minds of some people I presume, it is tremendously above such a plane. But we have had no misunderstandings here regarding this matter. We have played the game clear through with our cards on the table face up. We have had a sentiment here which has

never been equalled in any convention anywhere, that I have ever attended or ever hope to attend. But the inspiration and the spirit of all this talk may not be so clear to the brother way out somewhere from here, who simply reads the cold printed page. I have read these minutes carefully, and I cannot find where in a single case we have descended from that high plane upon which the spirit of this Association is founded. But the practical problem is this, if there is any brother to whom the passage of such a resolution of disclaimer will be of value, in presenting the merits of this tentative Association to his Grand Lodge, then we want to help that brother all we can.

The Commission does not care to assume the responsibility for this grave matter, and therefore I would like to have now just a little brief discussion.

I do not think we need to waste much time on it.

Brother Wherry: Mr. Chairman, did the brethren from Nebraska return home, — all of them?

Grand Master Schoonover: I think they all went. I have not seen any of them this morning.

Brother Wherry: Inasmuch as they are not here to speak for themselves, I would give you this as coming from them to me yesterday. They one and all gave it as their candid opinion that just such a resolution would absolutely clarify the atmosphere for them at home, and I personally told them last night that in case they went home I believed the matter would be considered here, and I personally believe if in only one Jurisdiction of the size of Nebraska this will help to clarify the atmosphere and remove this all over-magnified bugaboo, it would be worth our while to spread it on the minutes.

Some of the other brethren last night who on first suggestion of such a resolution opposed the thought of even mentioning it in our records, which has already been done now, have this morning come and expressed a regret that I had decided not to introduce such a resolution. I feel that I would be derelict to the brethren from Nebraska should I not mention their case.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Mr. President, might we not call for the reading of this resolution which our good brother has prepared? What he has said, I think, is likewise expressive of

the attitude of our dear brother from Pennsylvania. In conversation with me he told me that in his mind the situation would be made much easier if such a resolution were presented here and heartily supported. Like the brother who has just taken his seat, I too feel that if we can smooth the way to unanimity, in even one jurisdiction, we will have done good service.

Brother Wherry: Mr. Chairman, the resolution which I prepared last night is short. It is to the point. It is not open to any duplication of construction, and merely states:

“Resolved, That nothing in the formation of this organization shall be construed as a move toward the organization of a National Grand Lodge.”

I wish to move the adoption of this resolution.

Grand Master Hughes: I second that motion.

Grand Master Schoonover: It is moved and seconded that the resolution as read be adopted. Are there any remarks?

Brother Wherry: Mr. Chairman, before putting the question, I would say that in presenting this resolution I want to disclaim any need for it in my Jurisdiction. I believe I have the pleasure of having the first and only Jurisdiction which went on record, at its last communication, as approving this Conference, before conception even took place, and I feel positive when I go home with a report of the proceedings of this most wonderful meeting, that such a resolution is not needed, but I feel that it will be of value in some other places.

Past Grand Master Scudder: It seems to me that this resolution comes most appropriately from so exalted a disciple of eugenics. (Laughter.)

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the adoption of the resolution as read. As many as favor it will signify by the usual voting sign of a Mason. Contrary the same sign.

It is unanimously adopted.

Grand Secretary Winsor (Michigan): Brother Chairman, there is a matter that has come up in my mind in regard to the personnel of the first meeting of this Association, when the Constitution has been adopted by the various Grand Lodges. The Constitution provides that each Grand Lodge shall come in upon an equal basis. Now, the question would come to my mind, who

is to represent the Grand Lodges at the first meeting of this Association, before they effect their own by-laws, and how they shall be named, and of how many they shall consist; how many will be given seats in that convention from the respective Grand Lodges.

Of course, I understand each Grand Lodge will have but one vote, but whether they will be entitled to one seat or two seats or more and how they will be selected, whether that will be left to each Grand Lodge to figure out for itself, it would seem to me there ought to be some regulation in that matter, as to whether the Grand Lodge is to be given one or more seats in that first meeting of the Association; whether the Grand Lodge is supposed to be represented by the Grand Master for the time being, or by someone selected by the Grand Lodge, and whether or not more than one should be given seats at that first meeting.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Might I venture an expression of opinion upon that subject? When we come to this fateful first session, it seems to me we should have there the benefit of everything that every Jurisdiction can bring to bear, and I do not think it matters whether a Jurisdiction comes with one or with twenty. It seems to me the thing is to get them there, and then let them be on a footing, independent of the number that the Grand Master brings, for he will control that, of course, as he should, but independent of the number, each Jurisdiction casts but one vote, and in the discussion, the formation of these by-laws, the scope of the work, its detail, the machinery to be devised, the safeguards to be established, in all of these things we want the very best minds that the fraternity can possibly put forth and surely the best one to determine that will be the Grand Master of each Jurisdiction, and we should let him make his contribution freely. After that, once the by-laws are established, I take it for the purpose of making the workings of this institution practicable and smooth, doubtless it will be defined how each Jurisdiction shall be thereafter represented. But I am even then of the mind that it should not be narrowed. Grand Masters come and Grand Masters go, but the fraternity goes on forever, and its traditions and its history and what it has done and its buildings, and all its efforts, and its trials, all those things somehow should

be represented in some form, perhaps the best way will be to leave it to the judgment of each Grand Master to determine how the Association may be strengthened through the coöperation that he can receive from those with whom he surrounds himself. I feel that if it were understood that each Grand Master who comes is free to bring as his associates, as his counsellors, or as his messenger boys, whomever he feels can help, to leave it that way will be the best plan particularly at this first session.

While I am on my feet I would like further to say that while we have decided when this first session shall be held, that is, the date, we have not as yet fixed the year. We were a little hesitant last night about the year because it seemed that at that time as we were advised, three Grand Jurisdictions would not have held their annual sessions. I think that danger has now been removed as to one of those Jurisdictions, so as it stands now there will be two which will not at that time have held their sessions. One of them, however, it seems, holds semi-annual sessions, so that leaves only one, and in the light of that fact is it not quite probable that that one will find it so lonely that it will be quite glad to flock with the rest.

Past Grand Master George Lawler: Which one is it?

Past Grand Master Scudder: I do not know which one, but surely a way can be found to meet on this Victory anniversary day. It would be a glorious thing.

Brother Williams: Most Worshipful Grand Master: Brother Scrogin left this morning, but charged me to say to this grand body that he would bring this matter before his Grand Lodge just as soon as possible after he got home. That he was entirely in sympathy with it and will do everything in his power to forward it.

Grand Master Schoonover: That will be very effective, Brother Williams, because Brother Scrogin has what we call an advisory council in his Grand Lodge, composed of a large number of important men in the lodge, and if he does that he will have the sentiment of his Grand Lodge crystallized very quickly.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Mr. Chairman, in order that we may have something before the house, and with your per-

mission, I will move that at our first meeting, November 11, 1919, that is, our first triennial meeting, November 11, 1919, each Grand Lodge be invited to be represented as the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge of that Jurisdiction may determine, and that the first of the triennial meetings be held on November 11, 1919.

As to the place, I have no choice or preference. It matters not to me, provided it be not at the North Pole; but if it be at the North Pole we will melt it. (Laughter and applause.)

Past Grand Master Anderson: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I second that motion.

Grand Secretary Lou B. Winsor: Mr. Chairman, this brings up a point I want to suggest in regard to the designating of the Grand Master as the representative of his Grand Lodge.

Personally, I have serious doubt as to the Grand Master, at the time of this next meeting, being perhaps the strongest man to represent his Grand Lodge. None of the present Grand Masters here in all likelihood will be Grand Masters at the time of this first meeting; it is possible there will be some of the Jurisdictions that will have a Grand Master with but little experience and little knowledge, and certainly with a lack of the great inspiration of every member of this convention.

It seems to me, therefore, it would be wiser to leave it to each Grand Lodge to name the representatives, regardless of whether it is their Grand Master or not, whom they desire to represent them at the first Association meeting. I believe it would be better in that respect to leave it to the Grand Lodges to name the delegation which they desire to send to the first meeting of this Association. I have in mind some instances of Grand Masters that will come in whom I do not believe will be the strongest representatives which the Grand Lodges could send to the Association meeting next year.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: How does the resolution read?

Past Grand Master Scudder: I thought I put it so it would be both. We will have the resolution read.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Mr. Chairman, I desire to ask Brother Scudder for information: What are the integral parts that make up this Association?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Do you mean now?

Deputy Grand Master Grady: After the Constitution has been adopted by the various Grand Lodges, what will constitute the integral parts making up the organization?

Past Grand Master Scudder: I fancy it will be each Jurisdiction.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Certainly. Then is it not up to each Jurisdiction to manage its own affairs and send its own delegation?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Surely; we can not interfere with that.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: What is the necessity then of directing these Jurisdictions how they shall be represented?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Let us have the resolution read as I offered it. I thought I made it broad. Is it here?

Past Grand Master Anderson: Mr. Chairman, is not the question before the house that of the time of the first meeting?

Grand Master Schoonover: Yes, the question before the house, brethren, is the question of the time of the first meeting.

Past Grand Master Scudder: The resolution makes it November 11, 1919.

Grand Master Schoonover: Yes, that it be November 11, 1919.

Past Grand Master Lawler: At eleven o'clock in the morning, November 11, 1919, eleventh month, eleventh day, eleven o'clock.

Grand Master Schoonover: All right, at 11 A.M.

(The motion was put to a show of hands, and unanimously prevailed.)

Past Grand Master Scudder: We get down now to the question as to how the Grand Lodges will be represented, and in that respect I move that it be left to the discretion of each Grand Jurisdiction.

Grand Secretary Winsor: I second the motion.

Brother Wherry: The question as originally presented, Mr. Chairman, was two faced; how shall they be represented, and how much representation shall they have. Is that the subject to be considered?

Past Grand Master Scudder: Yes, as each shall determine. Leave the number open.

Brother Wherry: I do not think that is wise. I think it should be determined by this meeting as to how much representation each Grand Jurisdiction is to have in that meeting.

Past Grand Master Anderson: One vote.

Past Grand Master Scudder: One vote only.

Brother Wherry: Then let us say so.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Oh, I understood you to ask as to the number of delegates they might wish to send; but, of course, in the matter of representation each shall have but one vote.

Brother Wherry: Yes. I wanted that point brought out as a matter of record.

Past Grand Master Scudder: I thought that was understood.

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the adoption of Brother Scudder's resolution.

Past Grand Master Anderson: In order to avoid a misunderstanding in the future, I suggest that Brother Scudder include in his motion that it be left to each Grand Jurisdiction, but that each have only one vote.

Grand Master Schoonover: That suggestion is adopted by Brother Scudder.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Yes, let us word the resolution to cover that.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: Most Worshipful Grand Master: We have adopted a Constitution here that is just as plain as the noonday sun. We are undertaking here now, after it is all over, to put so many tails on it that you will never see its hide.

I move that every resolution here be laid on the table and that the thing be left just as it is.

Past Grand Master Scudder: I think that is proper. I think that the brother is right. It seems to me we have covered it perfectly in the Constitution; I do not see how we can do any better.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: It is absolutely plain to anybody who reads that Constitution that each Grand Jurisdiction

in the United States forms one unit in the make-up of the organization, and we haven't any right here to say to that organization whether it shall have one representative or ten. We only say it has one vote, and they can fix the manner of casting that vote as they please. We haven't anything to do with that.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Absolutely nothing.

Grand Master Schoonover: Is there a second to this motion, to clear the decks?

Past Grand Master Scudder: I second the motion. It clears the decks.

Past Grand Master Lawler: I am glad, however, this discussion has been read into the minutes because if any questions should arise in the minds of any one in any Grand Lodge they will have this to explain the matter.

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is that all motions having any reference to this question of representation shall be laid on the table.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Because the Constitution, the tentative Constitution, makes the whole matter clear.

Grand Master Schoonover: Because the tentative Constitution makes the whole matter clear.

Deputy Grand Master Grady: It falls back to the Constitution itself.

Grand Master Schoonover: So mote it be! (Laughter and applause.)

(The motion being put to a vote, unanimously prevailed and all pending motions were laid on the table.)

Now, Brother Prime?

Brother Prime: Brother Chairman, may I for the purpose of taking time by the forelock and doing what we know we would be most unhappy if we did not do, introduce the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Grand Masters and representatives of twenty-two (or whatever the exact number is) Masonic Grand Jurisdictions in the United States of America, assembled in conference at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, November 26, 27 and 28, 1918, unanimously record their appreciation of the generous provision made for their comfort, and for the efficient despatch of the business of the Conference by the

Grand Lodge of Iowa, and for the charming hospitality and the kindly spirit of fraternal affection which has marked the entire session; further,

“Resolved, That they express to the presiding officer, Most Worshipful Grand Master George L. Schoonover, their admiration of his manly virtues, winning manner, gentle courtesy, patient endeavor, and uniform fairness in the performance of his duties.”

Deputy Grand Master Grady: I second that resolution, and ask for a rising vote.

Past Grand Master Lusk: Mr. Chairman, let me support that motion and say that I am engaged in a like occupation at the present moment, but this resolution is so much better prepared than any that I could have prepared that I desire also to second the motion.

Brother Williams: As the Official Seconder, Mr. Chairman, I desire to support that motion.

Brother Michie: Mr. Chairman, as the representative of the oldest Masonic Jurisdiction in the North American continent, I declare the resolution unanimously carried! (Applause.)

(The motion unanimously prevailed.)

Brother Prime: Lest we forget, I desire at this time also to present the following resolution:

“Resolved, That this Conference of Grand Masters of Grand Jurisdictions in the United States of America keenly appreciate the message of love and fraternity from brethren beyond the seas conveyed through Worshipful Brother Octavius C. Beale of Sydney, New South Wales, and beg him to express to the brethren in England, Australia and throughout the world, with whom he is in fraternal intercourse, the affectionate regards of American Freemasons, and their unanimous purpose to work with them, the better to promote brotherhood among men.”

Grand Master Schoonover: I think we might also have that resolution adopted by a rising vote. I wish to second it myself, and I will ask that the brethren in favor of it rise.

(The motion was carried by a unanimous rising vote.)

May we now discuss for a moment the publicity to be given to this session? Have the Committee on Publicity said anything to the outside world?

Grand Secretary Fishel (Minnesota): Most Worshipful

Grand Master, the Committee on Publicity has not, nor will it have, as far as I am concerned.

Grand Secretary Davilla: The other member of the Committee thoroughly concurs with Brother Fishel.

Grand Master Schoonover: Will some one move to adopt the report of the Committee on Publicity?

Brother Michie: You second it, Brother Williams. I so move.

Brother Williams: I second it, and hold up both hands.

Brother Michie: South Carolina moves and Tennessee seconds it.

Grand Master Schoonover: Are there any remarks?

Past Grand Master Anderson: In thinking over the question of publicity for this conference, it occurs to me that we have a publication in Oklahoma that has pretty general circulation, known as the Oklahoma Mason. I suppose all Grand Secretaries have the same experience with the publisher of the Masonic periodical of their Grand Jurisdiction coming to them for information that is reliable on all propositions, and I was wondering what sort of a report I could give the publisher of our Masonic periodical as to the actions of this Conference, which I know he will desire and call for when I return home. I would like some information on that phase of it.

Grand Master Schoonover: I think I can enlighten you a little bit on that, Brother Anderson. This matter was discussed in the Executive Commission meeting last night, and I volunteered my services after this manner: That we would prepare a brief resumé of the proceedings which so far as we were able to do should be interpretative of the spirit that has controlled and governed our deliberations. That as soon as it was wise, in view of the situation which Brother Scudder has in hand, we would put this statement into type. I will present it through *The Builder* and furnish copies of it to each Masonic publication in the United States, with the statement that further comment on the subject ought, in the judgment of the Executive Commission, to be delayed until such time as we have had official communication of all the proceedings to all the Grand Jurisdictions.

Now, are we in harmony on that plan?

Deputy Grand Master Grady: That is all right.

Brother Williams: Most Worshipful Grand Master, should not a copy of that be sent to every Grand Master present and every representative present?

Grand Master Schoonover: Oh, certainly; a copy of these minutes will be sent to every one, and also a copy of this statement, if you wish it.

Brother Williams: That is what I meant, a copy of the statement.

Grand Master Schoonover: Yes, it shall be done.

Past Grand Master Anderson: In that connection, let me make this suggestion: I am sure, so far as our publication is concerned, that a suggestion on my part to carry that out in good faith will be followed by our publisher; and I presume that the publication in each Grand Jurisdiction can be easily handled or controlled in the same manner by those represented in this Conference, so far as the publication in his Jurisdiction is concerned; and I suggest that we take the precaution of seeing that that is done so that our publicity may be carried out in the full spirit as desired by the Commission. I believe if that is done by everybody we shall get the desired results. I offer that as a suggestion only.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Brother Chairman, may I make this as a motion:

“Resolved, That the publication of the record of this Conference be postponed until each attendant who has spoken has had an opportunity to correct his remarks, and that each such attendant be invited to return his corrected copy, with his name and state clearly written thereon, within two weeks.”

My thought is that as this is a matter which is going down through the generations it should be as close to perfect as it can be.

Our stenographers have shown themselves wonderfully efficient men and we are indebted to them for their skill and application to duty, but some of us speak more rapidly than others, and now and then some of us in our excitement make little slips which do not give deserved credit, perhaps, to those who in-

structed us in grammar, and I fancy we have a right to preserve their reputations. (Laughter.)

That is the purpose of this motion. At the same time, it may happen that within those two weeks the matter which at this moment is not settled, by that time will be.

Grand Master Homer: I will second it.

(The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote.)

Grand Master Schoonover: Now, brethren, in order that the spirit of this resolution may be fully carried out, we shall have with us by the time we eat our turkey, I think, the minutes of all the proceedings of yesterday. The minutes of today's session will be mailed to each of you tomorrow. We cannot rob all these good brethren who have been helping us so successfully of their turkey, too.

That will enable you, as soon as you reach home, practically, to do this; and I shall certainly appreciate the courtesy of having the spirit of the resolution carried out because it will greatly lighten our burden, and it will relieve the pressure in the printing office as well. We are under great obligations to Brother Brewer, and we want to carry out our side of those obligations.

Grand Master E. M. Hutchinson (Montana): Most Worshipful Grand Master, I can report on that. I have not said a single word, and I approve of the grammar used in each instance. (Laughter.)

Past Grand Master Scudder: You will have an opportunity of revising that, sir. (Renewed laughter.)

Grand Master Vick (North Dakota): Most Worshipful Grand Master, I have a resolution here that I would like to offer:

Resolved, That the sincere thanks and appreciation of this body be, and hereby are, tendered to Brother Neil Satterlee, of Chicago, and his corps of able assistants for the highly efficient manner in which they have handled the minutes of our sessions; to Brother J. A. Williams, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for stenographic and other assistance rendered the various committees and delegates; also to our Brother Luther A. Brewer and his good wife, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for their untiring efforts resulting in the prompt delivery

each morning of the printed minutes of the preceding day's sessions; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution, signed by the Chairman of this Conference, be transmitted to Brothers Satterlee, Williams, and Brewer."

Brother Williams: Most Worshipful Grand Master, this is a subject on which I claim my prerogative. I desire to second it twice.

Grand Master Schoonover: It is moved and doubly seconded that this resolution be adopted.

(The question was put and the resolution unanimously prevailed.)

Grand Master Schoonover: It is so ordered. Brethren, it has just been called to my attention that the names of the Executive Commission as it stands now when we leave the Conference, have not been read into the minutes, and I wish to do that.

(The secretary will show postoffice addresses, by order of the Grand Master.)

George L. Schoonover, Grand Master, Iowa, chairman;
 Robert Judson Kenworthy, Grand Secretary, New York,
 vice-chairman;
 Townsend Scudder, New York, Overseas Commission.
 Hugh A. McPherson, Grand Master, Michigan;
 A. C. Wherry, S. G. W., Utah;
 Charles C. Homer, Jr., Grand Master, Maryland;
 E. Tudor Gross, Grand Master, Rhode Island;
 Walter L. Stockwell, Grand Secretary, North Dakota;
 George A. Treadwell, Grand Master, Louisiana;
 T. Picton Warlow, Grand Master, Florida;
 George Lawler, Past Grand Master, Washington.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Mr. Chairman, I ask that it be understood that the chairman shall be at liberty to supply such other names as he may feel should appear on this Commission, and that they be put in the proceedings as though they had been announced now. That is, to make up the quota which is authorized.

Grand Master Homer: Brother Scudder, he is not obliged to fill them in.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Not at all, unless he sees fit.

Grand Master Homer: It may be well to wait until some of the other Jurisdictions come in.

Past Grand Master Scudder: I thought possibly he might wish to wait. Let it be understood he can do so if he wishes. Necessarily, knowing his caution and great discretion, we take it for granted he is going to be very deliberate.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brethren, there was one more matter which was discussed by the Commission last night. It had to do with the question of the raising of funds.

The statements made by Brothers Prime and Scudder last night clearly showed that a definite statement of financial needs at this time is practically impossible. We have, I think, some general idea of what those needs are going to be, and I believe it is the sense of this Conference that the work entered into by the overseas commission appointed by this body, should be planned on the largest scope that the Commission deems practicable, when they get across; when they have had the opportunity to judge of this matter, they will be able to tell us something of what will be expected of us. But it occurred to some of the members of the Commission last night that some of us might want to get some action in our Grand Lodges before this statement of general needs was brought out. In a sort of general way we thought that having the very general idea we now have of what is coming, each Grand Lodge could determine for itself, without any suggestions at all from us, as to about what it could expect its fair share would be, and that it could proceed, if it deemed it advisable, to raise any funds it desired, hold that fund and when the requisitions were made for help from this overseas commission of ours, it should be done on a pro rata basis with those Grand Lodges which were willing to help support the movement, and each Grand Lodge could then send drafts for its share, the money being called for as needed.

I state this little brief summary of the situation to bring it before you. Have you any remarks now on that point?

Past Grand Master Lawler: It seems to me some suggestion of a per capita amount might be a good guide to us and help out. For instance, I would prefer to go home and say, "We must

raise, as an initial step, a definite sum per capita," or something of that sort — some suggestion.

Grand Master Gross: Brother Chairman, does not that come back to the question of what the overseas commission is going to recommend after their survey? I think it would be unfortunate if we went before our Grand Lodges twice for funds, and inasmuch as they have stated they cannot tell us definitely what they want to do until they have been over the ground and reported, I think we should wait until we get that survey and then we will all be doing the same thing.

Past Grand Master Anderson: Most Worshipful Grand Master, there is only one difficulty, it seems to me, in that suggestion. Unless a Grand Lodge makes its appropriation subject to the will of the Grand Master, and is willing to do so, possibly before that report can be had a number of Annual Communications will be held, and if it were possible to tentatively say what the prospective need was, so that it could be presented to the Grand Lodges, to give each an opportunity to act intelligently at its Annual Communication, and therefore, provide the means and the revenue to make their proper contributions, I think it would be better. For that reason I believe it would be well to submit at least a tentative proposition in the way of a per capita contribution, to be considered by those Jurisdictions which might meet before such a general survey and report could be made.

Deputy Grand Master Stowe (Minnesota): I think Brother Anderson's suggestion is a good one. In Minnesota we have to thrash this proposition out on the 15th day of January, and knowing the temper of the Minnesota boys as I do, we will be willing to do anything — whatever you may require, but I would like to go before them with some definite proposition, if I could.

Grand Master Schoonover: This enters into the problem, of course. We have a certain number of Jurisdictions represented here, and we have a certain other number committed to the plan. There is still a number beyond that to whom this entire proposition will be in the nature of news. How can we possibly figure a basis to meet certain fixed requirements, which may be finally determined, until we know something about what

Grand Jurisdictions are going to support this project? Certain large Jurisdictions are not yet informed, of course, of what we have done here, or of what we anticipate doing.

Brother Prime, you are not in any position at all — or are you in a position, in a general way, to outline to us what you brethren in New York have considered to be the estimated cost, for example, of doing the work that you propose to do, on the scale which you would plan to do it, knowing that these Grand Jurisdictions were behind you?

Brother Prime: We have not, Brother Chairman, and it is impossible now to even guess at it with any degree of accuracy. It is only reasonable to bear in mind that we had estimated our responsibility might amount to \$50,000 a year, to do what our consciences indicated we might want to do, and what our endeavors might possibly extend to. That was, New York, of course, alone.

The five cents per capita, assuming everybody came in, would produce \$100,000, which would, of course, be a much more extensive enterprise, much more ample and efficient than anything we could do alone.

I think Brother Stowe's notion is entirely right. It is not discreet to take two bites at it, and come back for more. The assurances of coöperation which have been furnished here seem to be extensive enough to cover every possible expense of the survey. If they do come in, it would be possible to proceed upon a larger scale, and when we have some definite information along this line, we can fix the per capita with some reasonable knowledge of the probabilities as to the participation of other Jurisdictions, do it once for all, and have funds enough to cover the thing amply and generously.

Grand Master Schoonover: This occurs to me after hearing this statement from Brother Prime: If five cents per capita is sufficient to cover the immediately planned needs of the overseas commission, it is probable that no Jurisdiction would have to make any drive at all for that. In other words, that there would be funds in the treasury ample to cover any such small contribution as that, and the only question that would have to be settled in any Jurisdiction, would be the power of the Grand

Master to utilize those funds without an express appropriation preceding his Grand Lodge session. I do not apprehend under the circumstances that there are any finance committees in the United States who are going to complain of such action. I am pretty sure mine will not.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Mr. Chairman, there is one feature of this which invites our thought. Here we are a great fraternity, penitent and humiliated because we have not been able to engage in a work which we proclaimed was near to our hearts, and the way to the performance of which we have found blocked, the door closed to us.

Then almost in the next breath we discuss our activity in that work on the basis of five cents a head per year. There is a sort of anti-climax in that, and I think none of us wants in this record which goes out over the world such a cheese-paring finale to the glorious work which has here been done. I think it should not appear on our minutes that we have started in to discuss this thing from that basis. It is coming down with a thump, and I do not like it. None of us does.

Let me say here that it is not your money but your coöperation which is wanted, and I hope that every one here, when he returns home, and can find zealous men willing and able to volunteer their services in this work, will not hesitate to place us in touch with those men at once, because it is the men we want, the men of the heart and the soul and the inspiration and the love to do this work. We want them over and above anything else. Of course, we have to have money, too. That stands to reason. Now, if it be a fact that because we have long anticipated this thing, we of New York are a little more ready to go ahead, our plans formed, and our men have more or less shaped their own little affairs so as to have a greater freedom of action, that is just an incident, an accident, without significance of any kind.

I think, perhaps, while I am dwelling upon that, that I should say that these men who go over from New York do not go at the expense of any other Jurisdiction, any other Masonic Jurisdiction in the country. That has nothing to do with you. Anything that they can do over there is yours. Anything they can

report, they will report to you gladly; they are proud to feel that they represent you to that extent. But you are not under the fractional part of a cent's obligation towards the expense of that enterprise.

When we get over there, we (I am using it generally — all of us, those of us who go immediately as your representatives, those whom you send later on to coöperate in this work, when our work really gets under way) will be in a position to say, "This work can, in our experience, acquired through our close contact, be done in such and such a way, on a basis of so much per year," and perhaps we can offer alternative plans and show their costs. In that event, then, with your own machinery, in your own privacy, doubtless you will find a way of raising the necessary funds for whatever plan and whatever scope of work you deem it is wise and proper and our duty there to undertake.

When we were planning this work as something which we supposed would be within our agency, and which from the standpoint of expense, we would be doing alone, we had felt that the money which New York would put into it would be doubtless \$50,000 a year. We thought for that we would be able to serve, of course modestly, but none the less we would be able to afford a home, a center, a headquarters, and have something available for every Mason from any section of the United States; we could extend them a hand or reach them in some other way. That was our belief, and that is what we wanted to do, because it never was our thought for a moment to have the word "New York" appear in connection with our activities. It was going to be the Masons of the United States, and that spirit has got to prevail to the end. If we were to attempt anything else, we would be repudiated by the brethren in New York, and it is not in our hearts to do anything which would be repudiated, or which would be deserving of repudiation.

Now, if we expand, I mean if we endeavor to open up our homes, our centers, in each recreation center, each leavearea as they call them over there, it is going to be a bigger thing than if we had only selected two or three of the more important ones, the more central ones, as was our first plan. Necessarily, the expense will depend largely on the extent

of the service which we render. I do not suppose it would be possible to go to Paris or to London, and acquire homes which we will rent, a small hotel or building of any kind, and do what we are doing, for instance, in Sea and Field club in New York. I don't know whether we could do it abroad for \$50,000 or not. Probably we could not, but we did not intend to go into it over there thus lavishly. We thought it would not be wise to do it. We did not want to do anything to excite envy. These are times when men cannot afford to excite envy. What we must do is spiritual good, and not make a vulgar display of what money can do. We are not going over there to engage in catering. We do not intend to run canteens. They are well supplied now, well organized for obtaining the goods needed. It would be a duplication which would be unnecessary. Whether we should provide a little tobacco is another matter. We thought we could locate ourselves in such a way as to be able to avail ourselves of every one of those facilities which the Y. M. C. A. can afford us, and which they say they will gladly give us, so you see we take advantage of the unearned increment, as Henry George would have explained it, but from our standpoint a well earned increment, due to the patience we have displayed in helping them to see the light. So our task from one point of view is not so onerous a one. What the rent is going to be, we do not know. What the cost of heating is going to be, we do not know. We should have backing and coöperation from the standpoint of donation of periodicals and that sort of thing, as you all appreciate, and I think once we get our lines of communication established, perhaps it can be so arranged that you will send over there a mass of that sort of stuff which will make the hearts of the boys glad.

What I mean is, let us avoid for the present any discussion of the cost of this service on this per capita basis. Let us go away from here with the idea, that we are going to report as soon as we can what moneys we shall need to run this enterprise on the various scales which we hope to be able to submit to you. Let it be thoroughly understood that the most modest way we can do it has to cost at least \$100,000 a year, and if it be a fact that there are still fourteen or sixteen leaveareas, we have to

figure on each one of those costing at least \$15,000 a year to run, according to the standard which the Y. M. C. A. has established as a proper standard for such work, run along the lines on which they run them.

Now, that, of course, did include food, and so forth, as I take it. We do not intend to go into canteen work, but as against that, you know what they contribute along canteen lines is paid for on a certain price standard basis.

We intend taking advantage of the attractions which the Y. M. C. A. will offer us, and can, I think, thereby very much reduce the overhead charges so that our work will not be too burdensome. A duplication, for which we have no machinery would be entirely unnecessary. We cannot stop now to buy supplies here. We could not do it. We could not get transportation. We would be coming in at a time when everything was in more or less confusion anyway, and when we would be running up against the plans of the government to get over foodstuffs needed to feed Europe.

I have been straying along and drifting. I don't know whether when I started out there was any particular point to make other than the one I first mentioned.

Past Grand Master Lusk: Pardon me if I ask you a question. If upon arriving home you should discover that the government had consented to the original plan you had in mind, would it alter your purposes in regard to policy?

Past Grand Master Scudder: It will not, for this reason, that we could not then at this late date start in with any idea of making our policy any different from what it now is, and I think that coöperation with the Y. M. C. A. is giving us something that should be availed of. But if the government were to say we might go independently and permit us to do so, our thought is then, to avail ourselves of the courtesies of the Y. M. C. A. which I think they are perfectly willing to give us.

You see, the Y. M. C. A. is not a free agent. As has been hinted before, the government has stepped in and standardized everything. The Y. M. C. A. cannot do anything which is a departure from the rule the government has laid down. The Y. M. C. A. therefore, is not free to say to us, "You can do what

you please." What we do has to be in conformity with those regulations which govern the Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, and all the others.

If it should happen that the government is going to let us go by ourselves, then it is our purpose to go to the Y. M. C. A. and obtain from them the use of all their facilities, which they are going to give us gladly, and for everything of which we avail ourselves we shall pay at the standard price. In that way we do not have to have a new organization. They will deem us one of their additional attractions. They will let us have the benefit of their troupes, music, moving pictures, and that sort of thing for which we agree to pay on the basis of so much a night.

So it will be with everything else. If we go independently, then we won't have to sign up with the Y. M. C. A. We can have our own, and to that extent it will be a happy thing. But outside of that it will be a very unfortunate thing if, thus going, we could not avail ourselves of that which they offer so freely. We shall still be able to avail ourselves of that, because the Y. M. C. A. at the conference we had on the Friday night before we left, expressed their full confidence in the great thing the association of the Masonic fraternity with them was going to be to them, not alone now, but for the future. They realized what it meant, and they further realized the tremendous support that we have given them, all over this country, and when they started in to organize their work in Russia and in those countries where the Greek church is dominant, and whither they were told they must not send Masons, and when they had to call the roll of their own men to find a corps they could send who were not Masons, they then had their eyes opened, then they discovered that most of their best men were Masons, and they since have become keenly anxious for our coöperation, support, and backing.

I think I have nothing more to add on this score. Do not let us depreciate the obligation this carries. Certainly it will cost all of a hundred thousand dollars, if done even in the most modest way, and we can go as much higher than that as we please. We should frown on every extravagance, everything which savors of outward display, of vulgarity. We should make

our work blend and dovetail with the work of every other organization, so it will be emblematical of a perfect brotherhood. Our conduct should excite no envy, and we should in our conduct, in every way show that we are every man's brother.

Now, one other thought which has been put into my heart by a brother who just a moment ago spoke to me over my shoulder. I did not have the opportunity of noticing who he was, but he whispered in my ear, "What about the boys who are over here in our camps? What is going to be done for them?" And that is a matter I think we should not overlook.

I had assumed that each state where there was a great camp, in so far as it was permitted so to do, had doubtless taken what steps it deemed proper to bring Masonic comfort to our members in those camps and cantonments; if not within the walls or boundaries, at least in the neighborhood. I know we have tried to meet that situation as best we could, handicapped as we were, down our way. Our lodges have opened their doors, have opened Masonic clubs, kept open house and a thousand different little things have been done which it is quite unnecessary to discuss. Everybody else has probably worked along the same lines. We have rather assumed that that is the general situation. I say "We," because I have assumed that we have that work pretty well in hand, but if it is by chance a fact that there is a need there which has not been met, surely this great convention should not adjourn without planning in some manner to meet that situation fully, for our boys over here are going to find the camp life monotonous too, particularly now when they find they are not going to have a chance of being in the great finale, exposing themselves to the dangers, and being among the returning triumphant heroes.

I feel sad over those boys, realizing how heart broken they are that they did not have the chance to contribute more actively to the great victory. If there are suggestions which can be advanced here, and if anyone knows of any weak spots in our beloved land which have not been covered, let us consider them now and see what we can do to help those boys too, because they are just as deserving as the other fellows, only they did not have the same chance. (Applause.)

Grand Master Homer: Brother Chairman.

Grand Master Schoonover: Just a moment, Brother Homer. When Brother Scudder rose to ask for recognition, I had not quite finished my little statement, and I want to get it out of my system now.

Past Grand Master Scudder: You will excuse me, won't you?

Grand Master Schoonover: Certainly. What I was ready to say was this, that this suggestion that I made had to do only with this preliminary survey, and as to what was to come after, it was my judgment that ought to be on a far more representative basis than the paltry sum which was mentioned, and we should then be in a position somehow to present this matter to the Craft as a whole.

Now, Brother Homer, by the look in your eye you are going to say something else, so I am going to let you have the floor.

Grand Master Homer: I was going to ask first whether Brother Scudder was going to move that as a resolution.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Yes, I would like to.

Grand Master Homer: I take pleasure in seconding that, but I want to state this to the brethren from New York: We want to salve our own consciences. I do not feel that they should send a commission and bear this expense. No one questions the ability of the New York delegation to carry this burden ("burden" is the wrong word; it is a pleasure for them to do this), but I do not feel that they should go at the expense of their Grand Lodge. We should all participate in the preliminary expense, as well as in the final outcome of their survey—the expense called for by the final outcome of their survey, and I would like the brethren from New York to permit us to participate in the whole thing from the very beginning, and pro rate it among all the Grand Jurisdictions that come into this Association.

Past Grand Master Scudder: Cannot that be left to future adjustment? We do not want to claim anything we are not entitled to. We do not want to be different from anybody else. We are only too glad to, and we shall happily take any position you want us to take; we are your servants, but I think we can leave the adjustment of the cost to later on, can't we?

Grand Master Homer: That is all I wanted to know.

Grand Master Schoonover: The question is on the motion to expunge — I judge that is the tenor of it — from the minutes all reference to details of per capita assessments.

(Whereupon the motion was unanimously carried.)

Grand Master McPherson: Mr. Chairman, there was something said about the activities in the home camps. We have one man here from Michigan who has had a great deal of interest in and who has done a great deal of work at Camp Custer, a camp consisting of between 40,000 and 60,000 men. That is Past Grand Master Lusk; he possibly can give you some idea as to what is being done at the local camps.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Lusk, we shall be very glad to hear from you.

Past Grand Master Lusk: Mr. Chairman and Brethren: I doubt not the situation in various parts of the country is very similar to the situation in Michigan with regard to cantonments. Wherever they have been established I think the same general policy has been carried out, as far as Masonry is concerned, as we have observed in our state.

We have a very strong Masonic organization at Battle Creek, with a modern temple, where the Michigan cantonment is situated, Camp Custer, and the Masons of Battle Creek and the Masons of Michigan were anxious to do everything in their power for the soldier Masons of Michigan, and those who were aspirants for the honors of Masonry; and so the matter was promptly taken up by our Masonic brethren at Battle Creek, to the end that the needs of Masonry among our soldier boys might be fully recognized.

After a careful examination of the conditions, and in recognition of the rules of the War Department that we were not permitted to erect any buildings within the cantonment for usual lodge work, we felt that we could better meet, as a matter of fact, the obligations of Masonry by making open house of our Masonic Temple at Battle Creek, and holding all the meetings in that temple that were necessary for the social and lodge needs of our soldier members. The soldiers at our cantonment were made up not only of Michigan men but Wisconsin men,

perhaps about one-fourth of the total number being from Wisconsin. The two lodges located there, each holding a meeting once a week, or more often as might be necessary, carried on this definite plan for the social life to accommodate and to make homelike the situation there as regards our members in khaki.

The lodges also were called upon, as you may appreciate, to do a great amount of special work. I think that up to the present time, since the location of the cantonment at Battle Creek, they have conferred there by request over a thousand degrees, and you can imagine how much they have worked and how much pleasure and satisfaction it has been to the lodges in Battle Creek to carry on this work of conferring degrees upon those soon to go overseas.

In addition to that, there have been very many social functions carried on, such as dancing parties and banquets. It has been the custom, since the establishment of the cantonment, to have a soldiers' banquet every Saturday evening. Everything is in the Temple and is of course perfectly free to the soldiers and the candidates who come there; and, as I say, the policy of having these banquets has been a continuous policy since the establishment of the cantonment. In this way they have administered in a splendid manner to the social life, and in a spirit of helpfulness to our soldier boys.

There has been scarcely any need that might arise in connection with their life there but what we have endeavored to meet it, and we feel we have met it in a very successful way.

We have a grand officer living in Battle Creek, Senior Grand Warden Ira A. Beck, and under his administration, by authority of the Grand Master and Grand Lodge, he has given personal attention to the work and we have furnished him with all the necessary help to "carry on." The Grand Lodge has contributed and the lodges of Michigan have contributed liberally to this end and since our last meeting we have raised a very large fund to meet all the demands of Masonry in Michigan as far as camp life is concerned in our state, at the cantonment.

I might say, that as far as Michigan Masonry is concerned we are quite proud to be able to tell you that our present Deputy

Grand Master, Charles B. Eddy, went abroad before the last meeting of the Grand Lodge and is serving under the Y. M. C. A. abroad now; and after the Grand Lodge had met, the Junior Past Grand Master, Louis H. Fead, went abroad to serve with the Red Cross. Both these brethren of the Grand Lodge are now in France and doing this work that has been set out so forcefully by our distinguished brother from New York, Judge Scudder.

We feel as far as the cantonment work is concerned, we have been able to do a very splendid service in Michigan, and we have been very much gratified by the appreciation which has been shown by our brethren in that state and the new soldier members that have been brought into the folds of Masonry. I can state with a great deal of pleasure and pride that my own son was made a Mason in those lodges before he went with his division overseas. The spirit of service has been beautifully demonstrated in many ways as we have carried out this work.

I am sure that it gratifies to the fullest the Grand Master (by whose very great courtesy and consideration I am permitted to meet with you) and the Grand Secretary who has so long and so efficiently served the Grand Lodge of Michigan, to be able to join with you brethren in the work of this Conference.

I can repeat the words that Brother Winsor has expressed more than once since we have met here, that as he has gone over the country from time to time for a quarter of a century, meeting at Masonic conferences, in all his experience he has never met with a body of men whose service in the cause of Masonry and whose spirit in the work of Masonry, whose breadth of view has been so grandly demonstrated as in this Conference.

I want to say to you brethren here that it gives me unalloyed pleasure to be able to participate in this Conference and to witness the spirit and the purpose of this organization. I can assure you, if assurance is necessary, that the great state of Michigan, the great Jurisdiction of Michigan, with its nearly 100,000 members, with its unlimited Masonic resources, is heart and hand in the service of this organization; that it will appreciate fully the spirit and the purpose of this meeting here, expresses gratitude for the splendid work already performed,

shares in the ambition and aspiration, especially of our New York brethren who have taken upon themselves to try to work out the policy for American Masonry in this great work.

I can assure you that the Masonry of Michigan is solidly behind them and behind this organization in carrying forward to great glory and higher usefulness the work that has been so magnificently started here. (Applause.)

Past Grand Master Scudder: Brother Chairman, has the time come for the gobblers to gobble the gobbler? (Laughter.)

Grand Master Schoonover: Very nearly so.

Grand Secretary Winsor: We do not want to overlook showing our appreciation for all of the good things of this glorious session, and in thinking over what has been done in the line of preparing resolutions of appreciation, the thought has come to me that there is one very important matter we have overlooked. We have, as has been so many times repeated here, received a great many inspirations at this glorious Conference; and, to my mind, one of the most beautiful inspirations we have received has been derived from the many beautiful selections of music that have been rendered during our gathering here, and that matter has been overlooked.

I therefore beg you to have the privilege of making a motion for the adoption of a resolution of the appreciation of the members of this Conference to the choir and all who have so delightfully inspired us with music during the sessions of this Conference.

(The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.)

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Winsor, I will see that the sense of this motion is conveyed to the choir. Brother Wherry.

Brother Wherry: Mr. Chairman, the representatives from New York referred to a subject which I want to see a little more specifically disposed of than has yet been done, and that is the question of our local cantonments.

That it may be in order to say a few words upon the subject, I wish to move you, sir, that it is the sense of this meeting that the Executive Commission shall make a survey of the possible needs in the cantonments within our own borders, and offer our

assistance in carrying on such work in the cantonments as in their judgment has not yet been taken care of.

My motive and purpose in presenting this resolution is for us to appeal to the Grand Masters of the different Jurisdictions in order to ascertain if there is anything we can do to help them in the work placed upon them. For instance, I may say that the state of Washington and the state of California have exceedingly large cantonments, far beyond the proportionate membership of those states, and it seems fitting to me that we should go to those Jurisdictions with our survey and ask them what we can do to help them. Give them to understand that the motive behind this movement is to come in and render assistance to them if they want or need it in carrying on this great work which they have had to carry on alone.

That brings us back again to the many states where they have not had any of this burden, or any of this privilege, and my idea is simply to give all a chance to get under a cloak of alibi by joining in and helping the states that have had to do more than their share of the work.

Past Grand Master Scudder: I second the motion.

(The motion was put to vote and unanimously prevailed.)

Brother Wherry: This is a subject to my mind of very serious importance. Judge Scudder has told you of the anti-climatic conditions of the boys in their disappointments. I saw a letter from the son of a Past Grand Master of our Jurisdiction the evening before I left home. To my mind it was a pitiful letter from a young man who had at the very first minute of the possibility of war enlisted in our army. He had, through no fault of his, been shifted from one camp to another as an instructor, and at the last moment was on board a transport, ready to sail, when the order came recalling that regiment to camp.

In that letter he said: "Oh, Dad, our hopes are vanished. We are here. What for? How long? No one knows but God."

And the father said to me, "Up to the receipt of that letter I have never once worried as regards my boy."

But the letter goes further and says, "When we were on that transport, every man was in the pink of condition; on his toes, with the hope that his ambition was to be realized, and within

twenty-four hours after being removed from the transport eighty men of that regiment were in the hospital, not sick with disease, but sick of heart, incapacitated, because of the disappointment and shock that they had suffered in being deprived of the privilege of going over."

And, brethren, that is only one instance. That same condition prevails in the heart of every one of those boys who have been deprived of going over to do his bit. Of course, the folks at home are happy to think that their boys are saved, but they are also worried as this good brother was worried, as to what the effect of that disappointment might be on the morale of their sons in the moments of their disappointment.

So it seems to me that this survey should be one of rapid effectiveness. The next few weeks are to be the weeks of greatest importance in that question and we can not afford to delay or lose one single day unnecessarily.

As I sat here and listened to the words of our good brother, the judge, the lines of a little verse came to my mind, which it seems to me so fittingly illustrates the work of this Conference that I want to recite them to you:

BUILDING THE BRIDGE AT TWILIGHT

*An old man, going on a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and grey,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide;
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.*

*"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here:
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build you this bridge at evening tide?"*

*The builder lifted his old grey head —
"Old friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today*

*A youth whose feet must pass this way.
 This chasm that has been as naught to me
 To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
 He, too, must cross in the twilight dim —
 Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"*

It seems to me that that is the ambition of the work of this Conference. (Applause.)

Grand Secretary Winsor: Mr. Chairman, I desire permission to add a little to my former resolution of appreciation as to the music by adding that this song which has so many times reached the innermost recesses of our hearts and which we have not been wearied in hearing sung over and over again, "The Rose of Sharon," be inscribed in full upon the records of this meeting that we may all have it in the record to bring to mind the many happy hours we have enjoyed in hearing it sung at this Conference.

Grand Master Schoonover: Brother Winsor, it was my intention that the words of that song should be engrossed and used as a frontispiece to the volume. Will that comply with what you have in mind?

Grand Secretary Winsor: That will be quite satisfactory.

(The question was called for, and the motion, being seconded, was unanimously adopted.)

Past Grand Master Scudder: Is not that turkey very impatient, Brother Chairman?

Grand Master Schoonover: How about Brother Scudder? Is he becoming impatient?

Past Grand Master Scudder: He is always impatient.

Grand Master Homer: Is there anything more to be brought before this gathering, Brother Chairman?

Grand Master Schoonover: Make your question general, Brother Homer. Let us see now if we have neglected to do anything which we ought to have done.

Grand Master Homer: If not, I move that we adjourn *sine die*.

Grand Master Schoonover: Is there a second to the motion?

(The motion was seconded by Past Grand Master Scudder, and unanimously prevailing, the Conference, at 12:50 P.M., November 28, 1918, adjourned *sine die*.)

AFTERWORD

THE THANKSGIVING DINNER

If he who reads the foregoing pages fails to appreciate the real spirit of the Cedar Rapids Conference, one could only wish that he might have been present at the Thanksgiving banquet table, after the business sessions were concluded. To describe the atmosphere of thanksgiving is as impossible as to put into words the exaltation of the working hours of the Conference. But minds which had come to respect one another in the gentle battle of debate, no less than hearts which had been opened and laid bare before us all in the work of the preceding days, now joined in a common bond of fraternal love. North, South, East, and West gave full and mellow expression of that which lay upon every heart. It was a Thanksgiving indeed. All had foregone the pleasures of home firesides on that memorable day, that the communion of Masonry might be quaffed. And as the rattle of dishes ceased, and incense began to rise from the lighted cigars, the dining room seemed to be transformed into a cathedral of thought, the spell of which was as radiant as the never-to-be-forgotten rose had been fragrant.

Unfortunately, stenographic notes of the table talks were not made, and the speakers are not able, nor is any of us able to recall the exact language used. But it seemed as if each speaker expressed, as he was invited to do, his personal thoughts as he surveyed the work of the three days, and to hazard an opinion as to how the Grand Jurisdictions of his locality would view the accomplishments of the Conference.

In portraying what the sessions and the results had meant to him and to Iowa, Brother Louis Block spoke after the following manner:

REMARKS OF PAST GRAND MASTER LOUIS BLOCK

Brother Toastmaster and my Friends:

You have asked me to tell you the meaning and significance of the work we have wrought here together during the past three days and nights. Surely you scarcely realize what it is that you are asking me to do. Never before have I found words to be such poor, weak, worthless things — so utterly futile to relieve the heart from a pressure of emotion that threatens to burst it asunder. I have searched my soul for word and phrase fit to picture the worth and value of our achievement, but God help me! I find myself entirely destitute. It is so great and so wonderful, so far beyond all we had yearned and hoped and prayed for, that I can scarce believe even now that it has at last really been done.

As I look back upon it, and as its beauty and grandeur continue to grow upon me, and the spirit in which it was done returns to thrill me again and again with its divine harmony, I stand uncovered in holy awe before it, and feel we have small right to call it our own. It seems as though the hand of God has rested upon this assemblage and that we have been but passive instruments from which He has struck forth a harmony at once divine and sublime. As I have watched you at work you have seemed more than men; you have seemed like creatures a little lower than the angels, radiant with a refulgence of divine wisdom, and breathing a perfume of love so exalting that it has seemed as though the golden gates had been thrown wide, and the wonderful winds of heaven had blown in upon us. How wonderful, how perfect, how altogether lovely is this work which God hath wrought!

*“The passive master lent his hand
To the Great Soul that o’er him planned.
The conscious stone to beauty grew,
He builded better than he knew!”*

What a privilege it has been to witness the work of these new Builders — to be first-hand witnesses of this new proof that

*“So nigh is Grandeur to our Dust,
So near is God to Man,
When Duty whispers, Lo, thou must!
The youth replies, I can.”*

Manifold and magnificent have been the blessings which have been made ours, and were I to live a thousand years I could never hope to see another such a Thanksgiving Day as this!

We are told that in 1914, shortly before the war broke out, the German officers were wont to gather about the festive board and raising their brimming beakers drink to the coming of “*Der Tag!*” — *The Day!* — the day when brute Might whom they had crowned king of kings and lord of lords should rule the world with his savage sway. Yet, instead of seeing a day dawn which should put so dire a demon upon the throne of the world, we have seen the country peopled by the devotees of this Moloch become what Curtin so aptly calls “*The Land of the Deepening Shadow*” — have seen it sink into a slavery the most abject the world has ever known — a slavery not only economical and political but intellectual and spiritual as well — that of men sunk to the level of beasts, their very souls saturated with the stench of slavery, and we have seen the war-devil go down in defeat in the very darkness in which he tried to smother the world!

Yet all round about this Land of Shadow we have seen springing into being a Land of Growing Light. We have witnessed the dawning of a new day!

We have seen nation calling unto nation — hands across the seas — and despite differences of custom, of creed, of speech, and of blood, joining in a great circle of human brotherhood, holding aloft gleaming torches of human liberty — a great golden girdle of light closing in upon the powers of darkness and putting them to naught!

In this great work of enlightening the land with liberty, we have been proud to see our own land take the lead. For while we were not the first to get into this war, we were the first to give it its distinctive stamp, its tone, its tenor, and its spirit as a holy war for human freedom. Not only have we been wholly free from all selfish motive, from all hope of conquest or

thought of material gain, but we have proven that a free people can fight, and fight hard, and fight well, for such a mystical and imponderable, yet glorious and exalted thing, as a human ideal; and right here, my brethren, we have again witnessed the triumph of the speculative over the operative, of the celestial over the terrestrial, have again seen the upbuilding of the "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens!"

Let us stop to look for a moment upon some of the great things that have come to us as a nation, out of the terrible world conflict but now brought to a happy conclusion. Let us look at them and try to see what they mean for the future of our people. God knows that war is at best but a dirty, man-murdering, soul-destroying business. Yet we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that out of the wreck and ruin this war has wrought there have risen things that shine like stars above a dark and storm-tossed sea, things for which you and I should be deeply and devoutly grateful. Let us see them clearly that we may prove worthy of them.

The first that comes to my mind is the selective army draft, that splendid system which enabled an essentially peace-loving and democratic people at once to put into the field an army which has commanded the admiration and respect of the nations of the world and which has at the same time thoroughly sterilized us from becoming infected as a people with the blighting curse of militarism. We can never repay the debt we owe to our civilian exemption-boards. Thank God we had the wisdom to create these boards out of citizens, and not out of soldiers. The safety of our cause has been rendered sure by the splendid spirit of fairness and justice which has ruled the great work of these civilian boards. What a comfort it has been to place the lives and fortunes of our sons and brothers in the hands of men who knew us, our trials, and our burdens, who treated us like fathers and brothers, and who administered justice with gentleness, kindness, and mercy. The result might have been far different if the work of these boards had been done by cold-blooded, hard-hearted military martinets who cared not a rap what might become of us. As it was, the work of the draft will go down in history as one of humanity's greatest achievements.

The next thing that stands out as one of the shining stars of a glorious war-record is the great and lasting good gained for humanity by the splendid sanitary work accomplished by our government. The soldiers we have sent into this war have been such splendid fighting machines because we have seen to it that they have gone in clean in mind and body, inoculated against disease and taught how to keep wholesome, sound, and clean. The medical men of the nation have rallied to the call of a sanitary corps whose one ambition seems to have been to "keep sterilizing and keep smiling." Four millions of America's future nation builders have been taught habits of exercise and personal cleanliness that will mean much for us in the days to come.

Next to this in importance has been our great recreation service — the service that has *re-created* weary and war-worn men — kept them in good spirits — kept them in touch with the gentler, nobler things of life — laid a friendly arm across the shoulders of a lonely fighter, and whispered in his ear of wife and child and home and mother — made him feel he could not stray beyond the reach of our loving care. Time was when nations at war took no thought of these things. We have learned better now, thank God! We know it is just these things that win wars and make the Right victorious, and that morale means more than even munitions. How good it is to know that when Johnny comes marching home he will come back to us as he went — a soldier and a Christian gentleman!

And this leads me to speak of our crowning glory — the glory that lay in our universal readiness for self-sacrifice. This war has been full of surprises. The world thought the Frenchman was effete, decadent, sensually selfish — too rotten to fight — but the *poilu* opened its eyes. That same world said *we* were dollar chasers — Mammon worshipers — incapable of self-sacrifice. Then came the great revelation that lay bare the great loving heart of the American people — revealed us even unto ourselves — for then the world saw the spectacle of a million American men — marching — marching over there — marching to lay down their lives for their Brethren even as our Elder Brother had taught them to do — so that they too might be the saviours of men. Then the immortal lines of the "Battle Hymn

of the Republic" took on new meaning and we realized as never before what the poet meant when she wrote in flaming words of sacred fire:

*"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me,
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make them free,
While God is marching on!"*

In an inspiring patriotic address delivered by our distinguished brother, Joseph Fort Newton, at Davenport, shortly after our entry into the war, he called the attention of his vast spell-bound audience to the great truth that each nation seems to have been destined by God to show forth a peculiar genius or capacity for some great thing — the Jews had a genius for religion, the Greeks for art, and the Romans for law — but it was reserved for America to show a genius for human liberty. To this I would add that we have a proclivity, a bent, an appreciation of, and a fondness for, yea, a capacity, a genius for, and an inevitable tendency toward, *individual independence*. This is illustrated by the story current about the American sentinel. I am sure the military gentlemen present will overlook any technical errors I may make in telling it, seeing that it has not been my good fortune to have had their training.

It is said that on a dark, foggy night, shortly after Chateau-Thierry, an American dough-boy was on guard duty on one of the main traveled roads, and that he was kept busy challenging those who wanted to pass and the talk ran something like this:

"Halt, who goes there?"

"British soldier."

"Pass, British soldier."

"Halt, who goes there?"

"Scotch soldier."

"Pass, Scotch soldier."

"Halt, who goes there?"

"Canadian soldier."

"Pass, Canadian soldier."

"Halt, who goes there?"

"Who in hell, wants to know?"

"Pass, American soldier!" (Laughter).

You know the Kaiser's generals contended that this very national trait of ours was what would prevent our winning the war — that every one would want to command and none would obey.

*“But soon a wonder came to light
That showed the rogues they lied.”*

For strange as it may seem, it was this very capacity of thinking and deciding for our individual selves that fitted us for perfect organization, for a swift, united, efficient and harmonious action that swept all before it. When it comes to building machines, be they mechanical, political, or military — just leave it to the Americans.

And as we have a capacity for freedom, for individual liberty, so we have another — a tremendous one — for fraternity. Nowhere else in all the earth is there a nation to be found that has so many societies of all sorts, such an endless variety of fraternities. Our lodges and orders, our camps and chapters, our tribes and tabernacles are scattered everywhere. They reach from the cradle to the grave — are found in metropolis and hamlet alike — there is no society, no trade, no business or profession that does not have its fraternity. The “jiner” is distinctly an American institution. Underneath them all, and back and behind them all is our wonderful capacity for fraternity.

It is this we must nourish and foster, cultivate and cherish, God in his goodness has decreed that the world shall be free. Let it be your duty and mine to make this freedom flower into fraternity. This we owe to the brave who sleep in Flanders' fields, who gave their lives that love and not hate might rule the world.

The rose has been much with us these three days — let us be true to the spirit of this American Beauty — let us remember always that

*“The rose is queen among the flowers,
None other is so fair;
The lily nodding on her stem
With fragrance fills the air.
But sweeter than the lily's breath,
And than the rose far more fair,*

*Is the tender love of human hearts
Upspringing everywhere!"*

Let us not forget that we, too, have our rosary, strung with the pearls of our faith and the golden beads of brotherhood, and as we tell them o'er, let us murmur an earnest prayer for the dawning of that better day when

*"— man to man the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that."*

Over in Europe the world has been undergoing a tremendous house-cleaning. Thrones have been torn out, crowns cast away, iron crosses trodden in the dust, and the Junkers have found rest in the junk-heap. Things had needed cleaning very badly.

You know the story of Phosphate Bill — the Yanks regimental goat. Pets were not allowed and he had been ordered shot — and so the boys shot him — by proxy — showed their spades as proof they had buried him. So when the regiment charged over the top and into a German trench, somehow Bill was there and went with them. He found a German goat and proceeded to mop him up — as the corporal told it, "Bill simply spread 'Deutschland ueber Alles!'"

Now when the muss has been mopped up and the world's house made once more sweet and clean, then there will be more work still left for us to do. We must make this house of our human habitation a place of such supernal beauty — so altogether lovely — that human hate can find no refuge in it.

Of course I know that the world has been deeply wronged by the Germans and that justice must be administered to them — the wrong made right so far as that is humanly possible. But we will not get anywhere if we go about this business of doing justice with hate in our hearts — if we act in a spirit of revenge. Hating will never lift the world into the light — never make for human happiness.

We must not forget that the German people have lived for fifty years in slavery — have been persistently taught tyranny, debauched by despotism, systematically soaked and steeped in the madness of militarism, dominated by a devilish dynasty, and lured on to world conquest, and led on to disaster by the great-

est lunatic in all history; that we on the other hand have had a hundred years of education in human freedom, have breathed God's free air in a land all alight and all aglow with liberty. Suppose the thing had been reversed, that their fate had been ours — and we had been the madmen — a poor, deluded, insane people, fighting to make might prevail over right — we too might have been devils instead of men — who knows? Said John Wesley, watching the criminal on his way to the gallows, "There, but for the grace of God, goes John Wesley!"

*"Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet
Lest we forget, lest we forget!"*

Let us not be haughty or vain-glorious in our hour of victory. Let us show to the world that we have capacity for forgiveness as well as for fraternity, and let us labor steadfastly to make fraternity follow freedom.

The great constructive work we have done here the past three days shows that we are by nature destined to do just such work as this. I cannot tell you how I have hoped for, longed for, prayed for, the coming of this day. Those of you who have read my correspondence reports know what my efforts along these lines have been for many years. I have been misunderstood, misapprehended — especially by those who feared that by coming into closer union they might lose a bit of the glory and glamour of their official positions, who cared more for being a grand potentate than for making good-will to rule among men. I have been reprimanded, reprovved, nay, at times almost reviled by those who did not understand — seemingly did not want to understand. But I have never lost my faith in the great heart of the fraternity, in its essential democracy — its desire to meet upon the level — and I knew the day would come at last when we should know and understand one another — that then no power on earth could keep us apart.

The work we have done promises well, augurs well for the future. We shall yet realize this dream of the ages — shall see in this torn old world of ours the establishment of the brotherhood of man.

We have launched our great ship of Fraternity upon the

world's wide sea and "our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears, our faith triumphant o'er our fears," shall go with her and lead her safely into the harbor at last.

To have been with you, and to have worked with you in my humble way these three glorious days has been to me a priceless privilege. It has been a joy that words cannot tell. My heart is so full that I can hardly go on speaking. Yet the thought that I have been with you, have partaken with you in these communions and shared in this high converse of noble souls, will remain with me a blessed memory and a precious inspiration as long as life lasts.

I was deeply moved when Brother Prime read to us from that noble tale of Brother Kipling "In the Interests of the Brethren." May I not bid you farewell by reading you a bit of verse from the pen of another brother—a poet who has made for himself an undying place in the hearts of the American people—Brother Wilbur D. Nesbit, for like him

"I have sat in lodge with you!"

*There is a saying filled with cheer,
Which calls a man to fellowship.
It means as much for him to hear
As lies within the brother-grip.
Nay, more! It opens wide the way
To friendliness sincere and true;
There are no strangers when you say
To me: "I sat in lodge with you."*

*When that is said then I am known;
There is no questioning nor doubt;
I need not walk my path alone
Nor from my fellows be shut out.
These words hold all of brotherhood
And help me face the world anew—
There's something deep and rich and good
In this: "I sat in lodge with you."*

*Though in far lands one needs must roam,
By sea and shore and hill and plain,*

*Those words bring him a touch of home
And lighten tasks that seem in vain.
Men's faces are no longer strange
But seem as those he always knew
When some one brings the joyous change
With his: "I sat in lodge with you."*

*So you, my brother, now and then
Have often put me in your debt
By showing forth to other men
That you your friends do not forget.
When all the world seems gray and cold
And I am weary, worn and blue,
Then comes this golden thought I hold—
You said: "I sat in lodge with you."*

*When to the last great Lodge you fare
My prayer is that I may be
One of your friends who wait you there,
Intent your smiling face to see.
We, with the warder at the gate,
Will have a pleasant task to do;
We'll call, though you come soon or late:
"Come in! We sat in lodge with you."*

The toastmaster announced that henceforth the order of speakers would follow the course of the Sun, from East to West by way of the South, and then back to the East again.

Brother W. S. Farmer, Grand Master of New York, in a few well chosen words expressed his hearty approval of the work of the Conference, and then proceeded to give a masterly presentation of the contrast between the cool, calm voice of Masonry as it works its ministry in the world, and the flamboyant sensationalism which is the bane of our American every-day civilization.

Brother Henry A. Grady, of North Carolina, being called upon as the representative of the South, stated that he had come 1,500 miles from home, at a time when of all others he wished to remain there, in order to attend this meeting, and that his experiences during the past three days had more than repaid him

for all that he had foregone to be present. The inspiration he had received, and the friendships he had formed with the Brethren from all parts of the country had repaid him a hundred fold for his sacrifice. His heart had been deeply touched by the happenings of the Conference, with its outbursts of song, laughter, and tears. The play upon his emotions had kept him awake of nights, and a song of Brotherhood had been struggling for expression in his soul. With becoming modesty he asked that the lines which he had penned be accepted as an expression of his feelings toward all the Brethren present, and as an index of his dedication to the Cause — even as he dedicated to the Conference

THE FLIGHT OF TIME

*It is such a little distance,
In this silly flight of years,
'Twixt the path that leads to laughter,
And the road that leads to tears.*

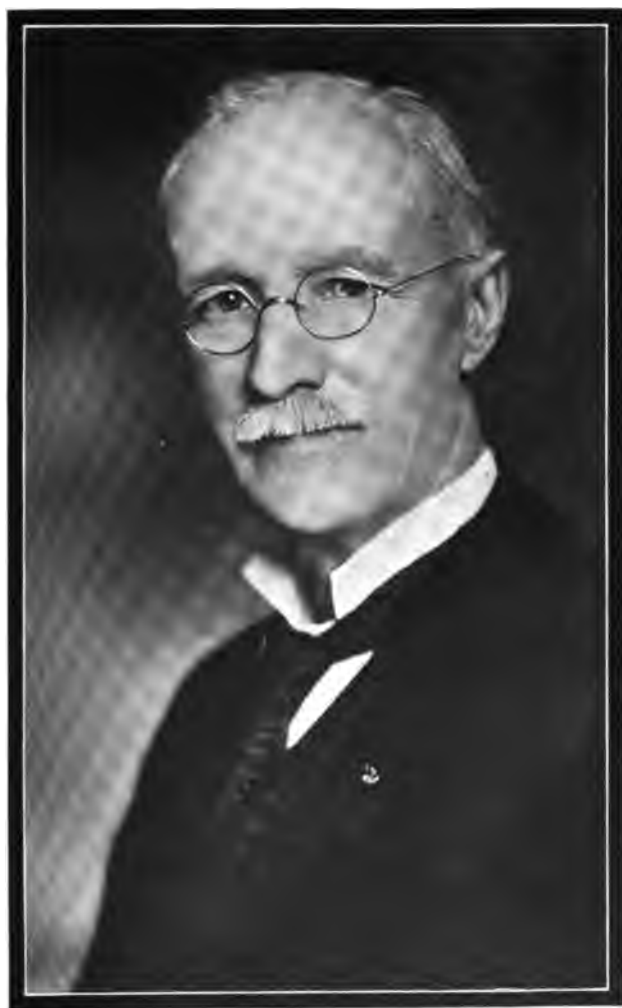
*'Tis the shortest, sweetest pathway,
Through this silly flight of time;
It is but a tear- and laugh-way,
Filled with music and with rhyme.*

*There's a feast of joy to-morrow,
There's a funeral dirge to-day;
And the sombre robes of sorrow
Cast their shadows where we play.*

*And the smile that's born in gladness,
Pure and limpid ere it start,
With a wail of shame and sadness
May come sobbing from the heart.*

*So the song that lifts the curtain
From the backward flight of years,
Brings a smile but too uncertain —
Half of pleasure, half of tears.*

*Then in spite of sin and sorrow
Let us smile through bitter tears;*



JOHN W. BARRY
Past Grand Master, Iowa

*For we cannot count the morrow
In this silly flight of years!*

*Let us laugh with one another,
While we strive for human weal;
Let us weep, my friend and brother,
For the wounds we cannot heal.*

*In the great white-way hereafter,
In that better, brighter day,
Surely grief shall yield to laughter,
For it is our Father's way.*

*But here 'tis but a hand-breath
In this silly flight of years,
'Twixt the path that leads to laughter
And the road that leads to tears.*

*But whether in tears or laughter,
Let us build the best we can;
In the Here and the Hereafter,
For the Brotherhood of Man.*

Brother George Lawler, of Washington, who had represented not only his own Jurisdiction but that of Idaho as well, was then asked to give his views of the meeting, and to tell what impressions he would have of it as he would soon look back over the mountains toward Iowa. In responding, he told with much emotion how it seemed to him that the hand of Providence had rested upon the deliberations of the sessions, even as it had had a large part in the issuance of the call. Furthermore, it seemed to him that the very atmosphere of Cedar Rapids had entered into the results. There was an atmosphere of Cedar Rapids, as his good friend and brother, John W. Barry, had told him. This brother's choosing of a home had been a problem with the early steps of which he had been familiar. To his knowledge, Brother Barry, traveling in the interest of a magazine devoted to the lumber trade, had spent several years in making his selection. His business had carried him the whole length of the Atlantic seaboard, through the South, and up and down the

Pacific coast, and during all this time he had been looking for an ideal place in which to build his future home. In making this first journey to Cedar Rapids, Brother Lawler had hoped to find out the reason for his friend's decision in its favor. Now he knew. Reading from a pamphlet entitled "Cedar Rapids — a City with a Soul," written by Brother Joseph Fort Newton, now of City Temple, London, he found a perfect expression of Brother Barry's viewpoint:

"Cedar Rapids will go on a-building when we who live and labor now have fallen into dust, and other men of other visions are toiling in our places. But its spirit of clear-eyed idealism will live and grow, and if wisely and sanely directed — bringing a fine practical sagacity to the service of a full-orbed and well-ordered city life — it will fashion the city we have seen in our dreams, and which God appointed should stand here.

"And sometime — if one may speak for the many — at the close of the day, when the fading sun turns the western sky, as if by magic, into an old-gold mellowness of beauty, and the hush and glory of it fall over our city, bathing its familiar objects in unearthly light, touching its temples and towers till they 'shine and are changed' — aye, sometimes we fain would live here, amid scenes so lovely and friends so loyal, till a dim great Hand shall lead us hence, even unto the gates of the City on the Hill."

From the West we returned to the East — the place of the Master — and Brother Townsend Scudder alluded to the fact that none can hope to become Masters who can not first learn to serve, and his words descriptive of the lessons of service exemplified during our sessions had the ring of a benediction of surpassing beauty. He felt that he would carry home with him many blessings and benefits, and the inspiration and delightful memories would be his own for all the days to come. He closed by saying in a passion of earnestness, "May the spirit which has been so vital at this meeting continue with you all."

In bidding our guests a Godspeed on their journeys home, and expressing my personal gratitude for their presence and the opportunity for these wonderful days of communion with them, I felt it fitting to characterize their spirit and their efforts as the fulfillment of those noble words:

"To sow, that others may reap; to work and plant for those who are to occupy the earth when we are dead; to project our influences far into the future, and live beyond our time; to rule as the Kings of Thought, over men who are yet unborn; to bless with the glorious gifts of Truth and Light and Liberty those who will neither know the name of the giver nor care in what grave his unregarded ashes repose, is the true office of a Mason, and the proudest destiny of a man."

Then someone started the Doxology. And they sang—as they had sung so many, many times during this Conference—spontaneously, gloriously. Thankfulness was the spirit of it all, and with this song they dedicated their praise to Him from Whom all blessings flow.

GEORGE L. SCHOONOVER

LIST OF CONFERENCES AND DATES SINCE 1909

- Philadelphia — June 1, 1909.
- Baltimore — November 16, 1909.
- Indianapolis — March 17, 1913.
- St. Louis — May 14, 1914.
- Washington, D.C. — December 13, 1917.
- New York City — May 10, 1918.
- Cedar Rapids — November 26, 1918.

**MRS. JOHN W. BARRY'S LETTER OF
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

To the Brethren attending the Masonic Conference at Cedar Rapids:

The mere assembling of words cannot express the most heartfelt appreciation of myself and family for the great tribute paid to my late husband, John W. Barry, by the representatives of the great Masonic brotherhood, both in their message and the roses of cheer presented to him the Wednesday before his last Sunday, and the beautiful red roses sent as a last tribute.

John W. Barry was fully conscious of the message signed by all the Conference members and drew much solace from it as it hung upon the wall by his bedside.

The Masonic associations he had always held in the very highest esteem, and he gave much to the furtherance of the Masonic cause.

It is indeed a comfort to us now to know that the memories we cherish of him are shared by his associates in Masonic work.

I am asking the Grand Master of Iowa to convey to you in suitable manner the above appreciation. Sincerely yours,

MRS. JOHN W. BARRY

**REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GRAND MASTERS
WHO DID NOT PERSONALLY ATTEND
THE CONFERENCE**

Alabama — I am in receipt of your favor of the 8th inst., and agree with you that we should have the meeting if as many as twelve signify their desire to attend. It is a great work and one that we have neglected too long. . . . **ROBERT S. TEAGUE**, Grand Master.

Arizona — I have your letter of October 3rd, and am heartily in accord with the contents thereof. I am taking the matter up with two or three of the Past Grand Masters of this Jurisdiction, requesting them to represent this Grand Lodge at the meeting you propose calling. **E. A. HUGHES**, Grand Master.

LATER: I have been advised that neither Brother Goldwater nor any of the other Past Grand Masters of Arizona, whom I have asked to attend the Conference in Cedar Rapids, will be able to leave at this time, and I am indeed sorry that we will not be represented, but regardless of that fact, I think that there is no doubt but that the Grand Lodge of Arizona will abide by the result of the meeting and I trust you will advise us as to the plans that may be formulated.

It was my intention to ask the Grand Representative of Arizona residing near the Grand Lodge of Iowa to represent us at the Conference, but upon looking the matter up, I find that for some reason, unknown to me, there has not been an exchange of representatives between the Grand Lodge of Iowa and the Grand Lodge of Arizona.

I had intended writing you immediately upon receipt of Brother Goldwater's letter, but have been confined to the house with illness until today.

I trust that now that the war is over, interest in the work

planned will not lag, and that something will be done to care for our boys "over there," who will need it now more than ever, until such time as they can be brought home.

E. A. H.

Arkansas — The proposition you advance does not now strike me as being at all advisable. It looks more like trying to do the spectacular thing, that would be making a great show without performing any very great service. The war is on and I believe to the very bottom of my heart that every Mason ought to give to our government every atom of his strength in whatever way he can, to help win the war. Any dissipation of that strength and support along any line of sentimentality or spectacular display ought not to be considered. Our Masons are in the ranks, God bless them, doing their duty faithfully and truly, but there stand by them men who are not Masons, men who have never bowed at our Mystic Shrine, doing their duty equally as well, standing equally firmly between our country and the scourge of that despicable Hun. What shall we say for them? Shall we as Masons call our men out of the ranks to special joys and privileges and leave the others to feel themselves excluded? Shall we as Masons introduce anything that would mar the harmony of our invincible soldiers? I would say no. I believe that Masons throughout our land are doing their duty as loyal citizens of this great country in upholding by their means, their abilities, their time, their prayers, this great fight, but they are doing this as men, as citizens, as soldiers or what not. Masonry is a Moral Institution, not a fighting one. When we have ribbed up our brethren to stand valiantly in the battle line, and quit themselves like men, when we fired them to support our government with their means, time and every effort possible, when we have them where they are doing all they can along these lines, then where is anything left to do what you propose? That Institution that has thousands of dollars to give to establish special conveniences for a part of our soldiers — though they be Masons — lacks thousands of dollars of supporting its government as much as it

should have supported it. These are time of necessities, not times for superfluities, not times for sentimentalities, not time for niceties, not times for robes and jewels of distinctions, but time when our government needs the bedrock of manhood, the strength, courage, endurance, and determination of that bottom fact of all manhood. But I am not going to pursue this thought further and will say to you in all sincerity, I may be entirely wrong in my conceptions and you may be entirely right, but I have dared to express to you my feelings on this subject. I have asked my brethren throughout the state of Arkansas through communications to our lodges, over my official seal, to be leaders in the support of our government, in diversification of products and in conservation of food, in selling of bonds, in support of Red Cross and in doing everything that our government has asked them to do, and I am assured that they are doing this as men and citizens of our commonwealth. I have asked that our lodges be made places of instruction and inspiration and dissemination of our government needs. They are doing this and I am happy in the firm conviction that Arkansas Masons are doing their duty. I beg that you will excuse any plainness or bluntness of expression you may find herein, any false positions you discover I have taken, or any errors of reason in reaching conclusions. I shall be glad to hear further from you at your convenience. MILTON WINHAM, Grand Master.

California — I find myself in hearty sympathy with your views upon the seriousness of the coming situation, but I am not clear as yet in my own mind as to whether a conference at the present time would accomplish anything more than that produced by the conference in New York, May 9th and 10th, 1918. I am not informed that Brother Scudder, who was delegated to investigate conditions overseas, has reported, and I am therefore a little inclined to think that it might be wise to postpone further conferences until we have additional and more definite data. I shall be glad, however, to be kept advised of your ideas along the line suggested by this movement, and if we can coöperate in any way,

beg to assure you of my earnest desire to do so. BRADFORD WEBSTER, Grand Master.

LATER: Since the receipt of yours of the first inst., inviting me and such other of the Masons of this state who could do so, to participate in a conference, the sudden and somewhat unexpected move toward final peace has given many of us additional and important food for thought; has presented new problems or at the least the old problems in new form.

As I see it, our distinctively Masonic problem in view of the early end of the war, does not involve so many complications as would have confronted us had the war, and particularly our participation therein, lasted longer and caused greater loss of men and property.

As you well say, the period of demobilization will be one full of peril to our boys owing to the inevitable relaxation of the strict rigors of military discipline, but in my judgment that situation will be well taken care of by the United War Workers, particularly the Y. M. C. A. and the Salvation Army, which latter organization seems to have the faculty of reaching a little farther and more effectively than any other organization formed or existing for the same ostensible purpose. In other words, I am anxious to see the work done and our Masonic brethren and their care made our special responsibility, but I have no inclination to make any work along that line necessarily bear the Masonic label, believing that we have and will fully discharge our responsibility if we contribute of our time, energy, and money to the channels already existing, thus avoiding duplication of effort and lost motion.

I have gone thus fully into an exposition of my personal views for the reason that it will not be possible for me to participate with you in the Conference of November 26-28 much as I regret that fact, nor have I been able so far, after diligent inquiry, to learn of any other of the Grand Officers or prominent Masons who can be with you. BRADFORD WEBSTER, Grand Master.

Connecticut — I sympathize most heartily with your excellent letter of October Third, which has just come to hand. At

the close of the Conference in New York I appointed a "War Board" of which R. W. Wallace S. Moyle, of New Haven, is chairman, so that we might be ready to coöperate in the movement which we understood the Grand Lodge of New York were to inaugurate at once. Brother Moyle will be our next Grand Master and is in favor of some such action as yours. I am confident that as soon as the work is inaugurated no technical difficulties will hinder us in this Jurisdiction from doing our part. I am sending your letter to Brother Moyle and if you think it necessary to call the meeting you mention I will be represented if possible.
WM. F. ENGLISH, Grand Master.

District of Columbia (Telegram). Impracticable to attend or send representative to meeting you suggested. Our Grand Lodge has under consideration a plan for Soldier's Welfare Work and the chairman of our Committee is now in France. Action of this Grand Lodge will be determined on receipt of his report at meeting in December. LEM TOWERS, JR., Grand Master.

Georgia — Replying to your favor of November first. The Grand Lodge of Georgia was to meet on the 29th of last month, but owing to the epidemic of influenza thruout our entire state I could not get my consent to call them to come together. All churches, schools, and places of public amusement have been and are still closed, and I conformed to the spirit as well as the intent of the request made by authorities and postponed the Annual Communication until November 26th.

Your letter states that you have requested the different heads of the order to assemble in Cedar Rapids on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of this month. I regret very much that it will be impossible for me to be at that Conference, or to send any of my best men, as matters of great importance will be brought before my Grand Lodge and I will need their advice and assistance. This is a great disappointment to me as I am very much interested in perfecting the work or purpose for which this Conference was called, and if there is

any possible chance for me to have some one present I will do so.

As stated to you in my former letter I care not where the plan originates — I only wish results. If this Conference should not accomplish anything or make any pregnant recommendations to the several Grand Bodies, or should deem it necessary to appoint a special committee to devise ways and means, I should like very much for Georgia to be represented thereon as we have men who are deeply interested concerning this work.

I shall bring the question before my Grand Lodge when it meets on the 26th.

I trust that wisdom, peace, and harmony will prevail and that something good and worthy of the fraternity will be the result of this conference. W. G. ENGLAND, Grand Master.

Idaho — When in the vicissitude of life, we are called upon to assume new duties, a sense of responsibility comes over our minds and we ask ourselves, How far do these new obligations lead us? Why have we taken them? In what way will they contribute to our own happiness and to the good of those around us? Since assuming duties of Grand Master, I have given the above questions much thought and consideration, and find that a very large responsibility has come to me. You can realize how much I regret that the Grand Lodge of Idaho failed to take action towards recognizing the Grand Orient and Grand Lodge of France and their constituent lodges. This was not because the action was not recommended and had the support of many worthy Brothers, but because the Powers That Be prevailed. My Brother (I am not talking now as a Grand Officer but as an old soldier who spent nearly four years of his younger life on the firing line with the Old Second Army Corps, from Gettysburg to the Appomattox Court House); what I shall do to assist our boys overseas is limited only by the amount of my means and ability. ANDREW LOUNSBURY, Grand Master.

Indiana — In conformity with my communication of the 11th inst., I beg to advise that after considering the matter from all possible angles, I feel that at this time a meeting as suggested by you would not be in harmony with our last Grand Lodge meeting. The Masons of Indiana have been leaders of public generosity in the support of the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A., the two most efficient instrumentalities of morality, mercy and relief that the world has ever known. Our boys in camp and field have full faith in both these organizations. Also, the government has adopted toward our soldiers and sailors a financial policy, making it well nigh impossible that want shall come to any American soldier or sailor or to those who may rightfully look to him for support. Each of the above has perfected its own efficient and equitable system of collecting and disbursing funds, and each of them is entitled to every dollar we shall be able to supply. This combination of circumstances makes the danger of want and probable need of distinctly Masonic relief more remote than heretofore, and yet it is not impossible that conditions may arise in which the funds we are all supplying to safeguard all the soldiers and sailors may leave definite need for Masonic relief to our Masonic brethren or their families. Against such a contingency, not as in any sense a substitute for the funds given to the Red Cross or Y. M. C. A., but distinctly in addition thereto, our Grand Lodge has levied a special assessment to be used to meet emergency demands, also in cases in which subordinate lodges are not able fully to meet the demands that are made upon them for War Relief. However, I would be pleased to be kept informed as to what steps are being taken, also as to the time and place if a meeting is determined upon. THOMAS B. BOHON, Grand Master.

LATER: I can not help but feel that my actions should be governed by my Grand Lodge, which would make it impossible for me to participate in discussions with the end in view of adopting the suggestions made by you. Therefore no further action could be taken upon the questions sub-

mitted by you until the session of our Grand Lodge in May next, at which time I would be glad to present for their consideration any action taken by the proposed Conference, together with such recommendations from me as I might deem proper. In view of the fact that these conditions have been made by our Grand Lodge, I feel that I would not be warranted in attending a conference for the purpose indicated in your letter, involving our Grand Lodge or binding it in any manner without its consent. T. B. B.

Kentucky — I have given considerable thought to the matters discussed in your letter and would be very glad indeed to meet with the Grand Masters, but inasmuch as my term of office as Grand Master expires in a few days, I have thought best to refer the matter to Brother W. C. Black, Barbourville, Ky., who will succeed me. E. W. WEATHERS, Grand Master.

Maine — I am sure I share with every thoughtful member of the Craft an earnest solicitude for the proper direction of our activities during and after the crisis confronting civilization. Having the utmost confidence and faith in the spirit which shall animate the Grand Masters in the convention assembled, I can pledge beforehand my earnest support of their plans and conclusions. SILAS B. ADAMS, Grand Master.

Massachusetts — I took the matter of attendance upon this convention up with the Directors of our Grand Lodge at our meeting held on Wednesday of this week (Nov. 8th). Our Directors seemed to feel that the time was not yet ripe for the holding of another conference of Grand Masters, and that it would be an unnecessary sacrifice of time and expense for our Grand Lodge to be represented at this Conference. However, the Board of Directors voted to leave the matter of representation entirely to the discretion of the Grand Master. I have given the matter very careful consideration and I am convinced that the holding of this Conference at this time will not prove productive of such good results as to warrant its being held. It does seem to me that when we get some report from the Masonic Com-

mission that is now on the other side, and when we can know a little more about what conditions will be when peace is declared, then we would be in a much better position to put through some constructive plan in which perhaps all of our Grand Lodge Jurisdictions would join and which would result in great and beneficent influence. . . I shall be glad to be advised as to the result of the Conference, and especially as to any affirmative action that is taken. If any plan or program is laid down, or a further Conference proposed, I shall be glad to be given full information about it. LEON M. ABBOTT, Grand Master.

Mississippi — I would like very much to have a report of what decision is reached at your meeting, and if no action is taken by me personally will refer same to a committee when our Grand Lodge convenes in February. W. L. WILSON, Grand Master.

Missouri — (Telegram). You may count on me. JOHN W. BINGHAM, Grand Master.

Nevada — Your plan is excellent and deserves cordial support of the Craft. It is a matter of deep interest to me and I shall attend the meeting if possible. WALTER E. PRATT, Grand Master.

New Jersey — I am in hearty sympathy with any movement that will tend to bring us closer together, and trust I may be advised as to the outcome. With assurances of highest regard and good fellowship. H. C. RORICK, Grand Master.

New Mexico — I am most assuredly in favor of working out some plan that would give our boys in the foreign land, fighting for us, the help they so much need and deserve. I hope our Grand Lodge will see fit to lend all the assistance in their power to help you work out this plan. RICHARD M. THORNE, Grand Master.

Ohio — I am disappointed very much upon learning from New York that M. W. Brother Scudder has not been granted permission to go to France. As the Grand Master of Ohio I attended the Conference at Washington and was sorry that

you and your brethren from Iowa gave up so soon, since had you changed the motion so as to permit the Grand Masters to present the matter to their Grand Lodges at their next regular meetings think it would have been adopted.

Since New York has been trying in vain to be granted permission to have Brother Scudder and another brother go to France to try to arrange for just the work you now suggest, how do you now expect to obtain the privilege? Possibly one way would be for a dozen or more Grand Masters to wire Brother Scudder to try, try again, that we are backing him. This might help some. H. M. HAGELBARGER, Grand Master.

Pennsylvania — Am in hearty accord with any concerted movement by the Masons of the United States making for a complete unification of War Relief Work, to assist disabled men in making themselves self-sustaining, for, during or after vocational training given by the government, the establishing of employment and research bureaus, hospitals, funds, etc. Whether each state Grand Jurisdiction should act separately or jointly, or both, is yet an open question and under existing conditions on account of the divided jurisdictions, a difficult one to determine. With a National organization actively at work, we see no reason why the several states can not act on their initiative along many lines of war activities, so that there need not be any local fear of surrendering sovereignty or rights inherent in the respective Grand Lodges. The time for that sort of selfishness is not in harmony with modern ideals, hopes, and aspirations. We herewith submit to you the Pennsylvania plan as follows:

“MASONIC WAR SERVICE”

M. W. S.

of the

Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity

of

Free and Accepted Masons in

Pennsylvania

Objects and Aims —

1. **Auxiliary service in all established War Activities such as the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., and kindred organizations, at home and overseas.**

2. Aid, comfort and cheer to those in the Army and Navy, at home and overseas, and those dependent upon them at home.

3. Rehabilitation of War maimed, and the development of wise preceptors capable of handling its problems on a basis of human sympathy and understanding.

4. Establishment of employment bureaus in every community, and to provide suitable employment for the maimed and debilitated soldiers and sailors.

5. Free use and occupation of Masonic Temples, halls and property for local War activities and for general emergent War purposes.

6. Coördination with other Masonic Jurisdictions for Relief incident to War Activities, the greater fulfillment of Masonic obligations and responsibility.

My impression is, that we should ascertain through correspondence whether or not coördination with other Masonic Jurisdictions for unification of general work at home and abroad is desired, and in any event, let the Jurisdictions who do agree, go on with the work upon a plan whether perfect or not, to do our duty as we shall know it, leaving the results to God. Again assuring you of high appreciation of your efforts and my sincere wish to coöperate with you, I am, JAMES B. KRAUSE, Grand Master.

South Carolina—So far as I had authority I have already pledged my support to any concerted plan that might be agreed upon by a respectable number of Grand Jurisdictions and recognized by the government as representing Masonry of the United States in foreign work. It seems to me that we should accept the plan suggested by the New York Conference and until the organization there suggested can be put into effect, give the nucleus organization which now exists in New York authority to represent us and thus enable it to receive recognition by the government and proceed with the work. I appreciate the importance of the subject and the earnestness with which you are endeavoring to bring about the assistance so much desired by all. WM. W. WANNAMAKER, Grand Master.

Virginia—I have very carefully read your communication and can not agree with some of the statements made by you.

I note that the Grand Lodge of Iowa has recognized the Grand Lodge of France, and yet I have a communication on my desk from a member of one of our Virginia lodges a portion of which I am quoting you herewith:

"When I learned of these facts, I most strenuously objected to any steps being taken until the lodge consented to the Holy Bible on the Altar and when they consented to my demands, they treated it more or less as gratifying the whim of a fanatic."

I do not see the necessity of forming a National organization simply because the Masonic Club of Base Section No. 1 desires funds. The Grand Lodge of Virginia at its session last February chartered a Masonic club among the officers and men of the 315th Field Artillery. That club is now in France and members of that club are in constant communication with Masons of Virginia and we have yet to receive any letter that intimates that they are in need of money. While I am willing to do whatever is deemed necessary by the Masons of Virginia, yet I do not believe that there is any strong demand at the present time, such as you have outlined in your communication. **EARNEST L. CUNNINGHAM, Grand Master.**

Washington — Your good letter of the 3rd inst. came to me promptly and I have taken several days to reflect upon it, the while I am attending to a voluminous correspondence caused by the war conditions.

You have voiced my feelings in this call, and I feel free to say that the paragraph in the letter from the Masonic Club reproduced by you in capitals on page nine of your letter comes nearer crystallizing the need of the hour into a concise statement than anything I have so far found.

I read with great interest the report of the meeting of Grand Masters held in New York, and felt disappointed that nothing more developed.

I do *not* like the stinger in the quotation from the Brother anent the New York program. I wish the stinger could be pulled out. It may be a long while before it can be extracted, but it would be done more quickly if we were united

in some form of central organization. Possibly the same influence has operated to prevent effective coöperation. Your comment on the condition will be welcome.

I judge from your letter that you have extended an invitation to the several Grand Masters to meet and endeavor to get *action*. If so, I am glad. Will you kindly give me the date and place of meeting that you consider most convenient? I am not in the best of health, due to a serious surgical operation from which I have not fully recovered, and have a large and active personal business to care for, but my heart is 100% in the work, and if it is at all possible, I will attend, and if I can, bring one or two real Masons with me.

I know of the specter General Grand Lodge but am not at all concerned at the danger of losing our forty-nine identities. Then, too, one large pair of forceps would be more effective than forty-nine pairs of tweezers in pulling the stinger, or performing any other needed action.

But, joking aside, we are *not* performing our duty, or rising to our opportunity. I believe that the Masons of all the Jurisdictions would approve strong initiative, based on the pure principles of Masonry and followed up by earnest effective action. If nothing is done, I feel that we will be passed by in silence. I am about to get several choice souls together and go over the matter, and will write again. In the meantime I will welcome any response or suggestion you may have. A. E. EMERSON, Grand Master.

West Virginia (Telegram). Am with you heart and soul in the work. Our Grand Lodge meets November Thirteenth and would be glad to have you with us. Will meet with you any time before or after Grand Lodge. CHARLES S. ANGEL, Grand Master.

Wisconsin — Your interest and attitude in the matter forming the subject of your communication is duly appreciated and fully understood by me, and I regret very much that personally I am compelled to write you that I have no power under our Constitution, Rules and Regulations to bind the

Grand Lodge of Wisconsin to any action along the lines suggested by you.

My situation is similar to that outlined by you on page six of your letter "because his Grand Lodge had not acted upon the question."

It might be well to state that under the regulations of our Grand Lodge no Masonic Club can be formed without its consent. Therefore, I can not see my way open to become a part to a project, no matter how worthy it may be of support, which has been discountenanced by such Body.

Moreover the question is closely allied to the recognition by my Grand Lodge of the Grand Lodge of France, to which no assent has been given, which fact alone would, in my opinion, debar me from participating in the Conference suggested and requested by you.

In view of the foregoing facts I deem it unwise to discuss the matter any further and with the best of fraternal feeling must forego the pleasure of meeting you for the purpose mentioned. DAVID HARLOWE, Grand Master.

Wyoming. I am heartily in favor of your plan and do not doubt but that any proposition that is adopted at the meeting will be such that this Jurisdiction can unqualifiedly join with you. GEO. E. BRIMMER, Grand Master.



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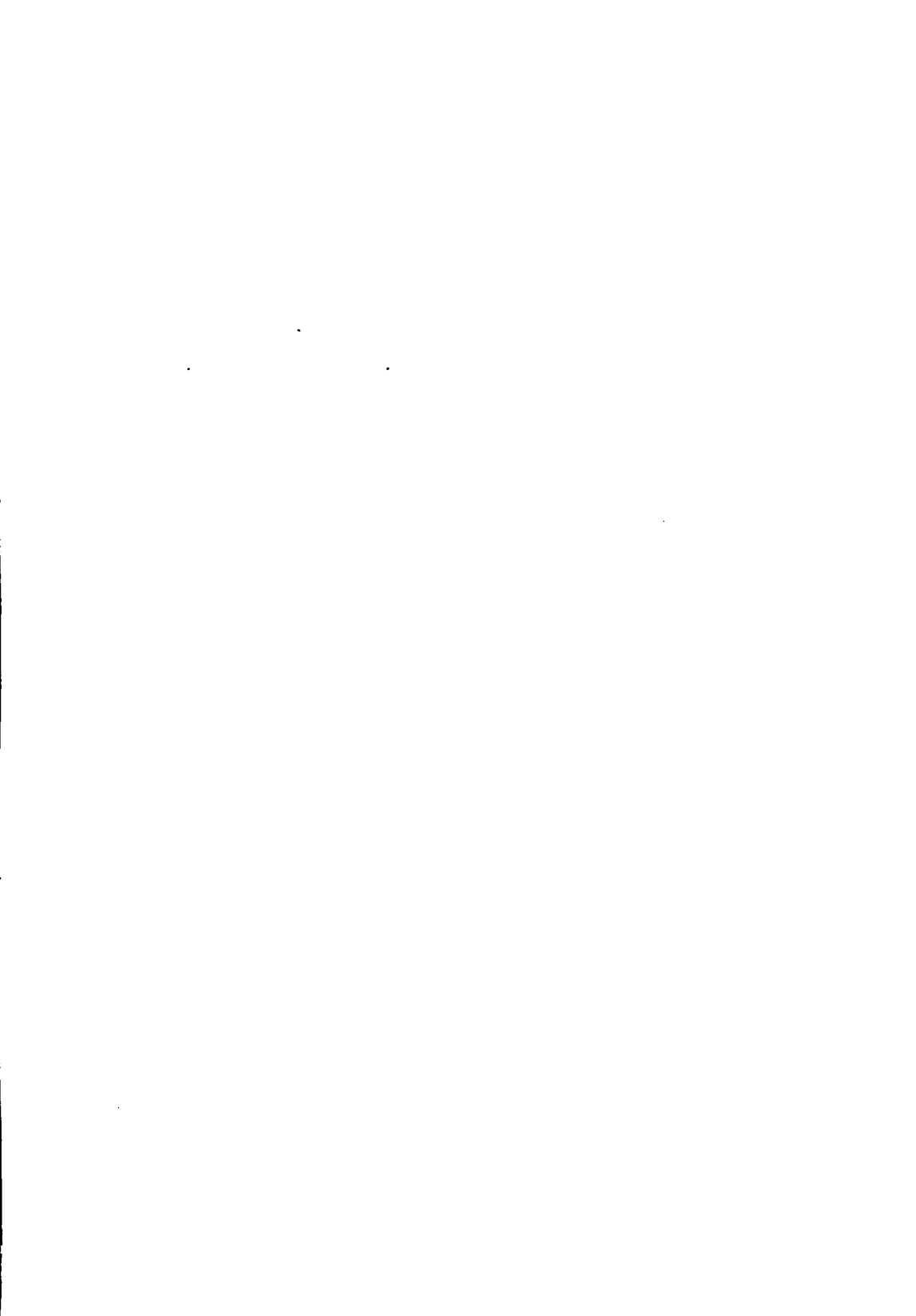
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