

Chapter Past Masters vs Provincial Lodge of Past Masters

The Past Master degree came in for a share of his attention, and in view of Canada's happy condition of being rid of it and the complications it causes elsewhere, his remarks on this precious "essential" will be read with interest.

"This degree has caused a great deal of trouble in this State, owing to the fact that it is still an open question as to whether or not Past Masters who have received that degree in the Chapter can be present at a Provisional Lodge of Past Masters. The degrees are identically the same in both the Blue Lodge and the Chapter, and I have never seen any good reason assigned for excluding the Chapter Past Masters, except the trouble with the obligation."

"In Virginia, Chapter Past Masters are allowed to sit in a Provisional Past Master's Lodge, and vice versa, without objection. Frequently it is necessary to use Chapter Past Masters in order to organize a Provisional Lodge, and not infrequently the degree can only be conferred by a Chapter Past Master."

"I have had a discussion about this matter with Brother Gibson, a Past Grand Master, and he has agreed with me that the obligations of the degree in both Blue Lodge and Chapter should be so changed that it would be unnecessary to re-obligate these men in either the Chapter or the Blue Lodge, and do away with the anomaly that now exists."

"As the obligation of the Past Master's degree is not a landmark, I would suggest that the necessary change be made, and Chapter Past Masters admitted without objection to Provisional Lodges of Past Masters, and vice versa.

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1913 report on Foreign Correspondence - WEST VIRGINIA