

Exclusion of undesirable members

To the Oregon reporter, whose strong advocacy of special legislation to exclude persons engaged in the liquor trade he had more than once criticized, and who had remarked that improvement had followed such enactments in the conduct of Chapters and the characters of petitioners "since a lot of us cranks began to favor exclusion of intoxicants, the seller and intemperate user," he directs these straight sentences:

"The condition is a very unfortunate one for any jurisdiction when any considerable number of members of a Grand Masonic Body believe, either in their consciences or their 'crankiness,' that they can no longer trust their constituent lodges or chapters to make a proper use of the ballot box for the exclusion of undesirable material. In any event, it is our firm conviction that it would more fully accord with the spirit of the Masonic system and of the ancient landmarks and old constitutions, to promptly discipline, even if necessary to the extent of arresting the charter of, any lodge and chapter proving themselves thus untrustworthy, than to invade the old-time rights of other lodges and chapters by new-fangled, intemperate and unwise legislation in the shape of modern restrictions upon the undoubted right of the subordinate bodies to select their own material, subject only to the conditions that form an essential part of the Masonic system."

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1911 report on Foreign Correspondence - QUEBEC