

Grand Chapter of Canada title too comprehensive

Notwithstanding his many troubles, M. E. Comp. Waddell took up his share of the reviewing with characteristic energy and devotes to Canada four pages of favorable notice. He continues to harp on that old complaint anent the name given to this Grand Chapter, which we had taken pains to explain was the appellation bestowed at birth, ratified at the baptismal font, continued ever since and must necessarily remain until the usefulness of Grand Chapters has ceased. The worthy Companions of Nova Scotia are of the opinion that the title is too comprehensive and that we should confine it to the province in which headquarters finds a shake-down. We had striven to convince him that the territory under our wing at present extended from the Laurentians in the East to the Pacific in the golden west and north to the Arctic circle which might go somewhat to justify a claim to the word Canada in our title but no, to make that title acceptable to Nova Scotia the words "in Ontario" should be included in brackets. We gave him the clause of the Constitution just to satisfy whatever scruples might remain that we were not romancing, and he rejoins:

"All of which nobody is disposed to deny, but we simply remark that that is not Canada."

Neither is it Ontario. Then because we jokingly inferred by quotation, which apparently was not recognized, that two other of the Companions had with himself simultaneously voiced approval of the bracketted "in Ontario," he waxes warm, and more than hints that we made an accusation of deliberate conspiracy, when the suggestion really amounted to nothing more than a passing proposal that the remarkable instance of telepathy was, to use a Gilbertian phrase, "a coingular singulance."

Meantime the "Grand Chapter of Canada" proceeds calmly in the peaceful and useful mission for which it was intended when it received that title and when no objections were offered. We have ere now ventured the possibilities that some day we may have to furnish a stock of extra words and "brackets" to allay any suspicions of undue acquisitiveness. To do so now would be to toy with the truth, and Comp. W. would not wish us to do that. It would be as repugnant to him as it would be for this reviewer to suggest, even in thought, that our esteemed M. E. Companion would stoop to anything inconsistent with probity.

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1913 report on Foreign Correspondence – NOVA SCOTIA