

Internment is not a Masonic offence

The Annual Convocation apparently was not held — probably because of the war. Business is transacted at the Quarterlies.

The war of course overshadows everything in Scotland. Two interesting problems arose and were dealt with as follows: —

"A Principal of a Chapter, and an active member of it for years, being German by birth, has been interned. He applies for his diploma as a Principal, which is due for issue, on the ground that it is no fault of his own that he has been unable to attend and fulfil the duties of his office during a small portion of the full year. An essential principle of Scottish Masonry is that it excludes politics, though on the other hand it recognises that it is a Masonic offence for a member to actively participate" (the split infinitive is not ours) "in or support any act disloyal or inimical to the interests of the Empire, more especially when at war. It was held that no member could be expelled, suspended, or deprived of his rights as a Mason without a charge of unmasonic conduct being served upon him and proved, and that, in the absence of such, the Principal concerned was entitled to his diploma. The mere fact of internment is not a Masonic offence, and is not of itself any proof of disloyalty."

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1917 report on Foreign Correspondence - SCOTLAND