

Methods of instruction

Methods of instruction drew from the G.H.P. some strong and pungent remarks.

"Masonic bodies have always found it hard to have a uniform work in their jurisdictions. So Custodians, Lecturers and District Deputies have been added to the office force to try and awaken interest in the doctrines taught, and to make the candidates, admitted and initiated, understand better what it was all about.

"As might have been expected, the District Deputies in some States, taking advantage of their high office, degenerated into political wire-pullers and were discontinued. In other States the Grand Officers divide the State and each one takes a certain number of Lodges or Chapters and lectures them in the work, thus doing away with all Grand Lecturers and District Deputies. Others again, having gotten rid of the politicians, have granted the right of teaching to any past or present officer who could stand a creditable examination in open lodge or before the Custodians."

Referring to "Schools of Instruction," presided over by the Grand Lecturer, as adopted by Mississippi, he thus summed up their value:

"We have, as you know, tried this last road to Masonic knowledge. Companion Whitaker pronounced the undertaking a dismal failure, so I canceled the later ones to save a useless expense."

He then advocated cutting loose from all these experiments, none of which have stood the test, and adopt the method of compulsory memorizing and an examination before installation. If the Chapters do not agree to the plan, the alternative to be seizure of charter.

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1914 report on Foreign Correspondence - MISSISSIPPI