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MASONIC BODIES DENOUNCE "FAKE"

ENGLISH, SCOTCH AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS OF ORDER BRAND "AMERICAN FEDERATION."

Officials Expose Sale of "Rights"

PROSECUTION IN CANADA RESULTS IN FINE AND DEPORTATION AND SURPRISE IS BEING EXPRESSED THAT DUES STILL ARE BEING PAID.

The Portland Oregonian says: "That a coterie of unprincipled men are victimizing many who would join the Masonic order by taking what fees they can collect for admission to a bogus order of Masonry is the charge of Grand Secretary Robinson, of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Oregon. Mr. Robinson says this 'confidence game' has been going on for years. Two members of the order, which is styled the 'American Masonic Federation,' Nathan B. Wineberg and Joseph Mendel, were fined \$200 each by Magistrate Shaw in Vancouver, B. C., last December and were deported from Canada. The charge was obtaining money under false pretenses.

The grand organizer of these 'Clandestine Masons,' as they have been called, is McBlain Thompson, of Salt Lake City, who, according to a letter from Alfred A. A. Murray, grand secretary of the grand chapter of Scotland, to Grand Secretary Robinson, is an expelled Mason.

The organizers of the American Federation in Oregon have been A. E. Lucas and W. H. Lindsay. Lucas began operations in Portland in 1910 under authority of McBlain Thompson. He had offices in the North End

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where, according to Grand Secretary Robinson, he pretended to confer three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry on his victims in the short time of thirty-five minutes, charging a fee of \$35.

Rights Sold Is Allegation.
 "After he had made considerable money peddling his spurious masonry he transferred the business to W. H. Lindsay for \$400," said Secretary Robinson yesterday. "Lindsay operated the business for some time, until he was arrested by the Portland police for contributing to the delinquency of small boys. He was tried in Judge McGinn's court, convicted and paroled. Then he disappeared and has not been heard of since.

"After Lindsay's disappearance the business of the American Masonic Federation was transferred to A. J. Court, G. B. M. Somerville, S. H. Haines, J. A. Wheeler, P. A. Johnson and others, who are still pretending to organize lodges and confer Masonic degrees on anyone they can prevail upon to put up the money.

"These self-constituted officials pretend to confer any degree of masonry from the first to the 33rd degree, and many other degrees not recognized by legitimate Masons. As long as their victims have the money, these impostors will give them some kind of degree and call it masonry. And of course if any of these victims come to any of our lodges we cannot admit them. They cannot be recognized by any Masonic lodge in the country.

Portland Victims 20.

"There have been about twenty victims of this bogus Masonry in Portland. T. C. Hunt, who recently was admitted to the bar in this city, is one of them. He sued the organizers for obtaining money under false pretenses. The case was tried before Judge Kavanaugh. The jury stood nine to three for conviction. At a second trial the organizers were acquitted. It was shown by their attorney that no fraud was intended, in proof whereof he pointed to a sentence in small printing on the certificate which read: 'This does not give you the rite to visit any other rite.'

A stack of letters four inches high in the possession of Grand Secretary Robinson, most of them from Lucas to Lindsay and some from Thomson to Lindsay, throws some light on the operations of the organizers and where the greater part of the fees went.

Following is a letter written by Grand Secretary Robinson in answer to an inquiry regarding the 'Clandestine Masons':
 "In reply to your question: 'What standing will my friend, Mr. _____ have in the Masonic fraternity and will he be permitted to visit the lodges of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in Oregon if he should join

a lodge of the American Federation?' I have to inform you that he will have no standing in, neither will he be permitted to visit or be recognized as a Mason by any member of or any lodge of A. F. and A. Masons of Oregon or any other state or country in the world.

Imitators Are Branded.
 "The 'American Masonic Federation' like many other imitators of Masonic bodies, are known and branded by all A. F. and A. Masons as clandestine or fake Masons.

"None of the persons you name, to-wit: McBlain Thompson, A. J. Court, G. B. M. Somerville, S. H. Haines, J. A. Wheeler or P. A. Johnson, have any authority from any lodge or Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. Masons in this or any other country to establish lodges or confer Masonic degrees.

"Any person joining the 'American Masonic Federation' expecting they are getting legitimate Masonry or expecting to be recognized as Masons or permitted to visit or affiliate with lodges of A. F. and A. M. will be badly disappointed.

"No, it is not true that the courts of Oregon have pronounced the 'American Masonic Federation' a legitimate body. One of their own victims (F. C. Hunt) when he found that he had been unhooded had them arrested and tried for obtaining money under false pretenses, and they only escaped conviction on a technicality.

"On February 16 two of the agents of the 'American Masonic Federation' attempted to foist their spurious Masonry on some persons in Vancouver, B. C. They were arrested and tried, convicted and fined \$200; and informed by the judge that a repetition of the offense would be more severely dealt with and punished with a prison sentence.

Any Connection Is Denied.
 "The fraternity of the A. F. and A. Masons of the world are in no way connected with or responsible for the claims put forth by the above named clandestine body calling themselves Masons.

"These clandestine or fake 'Masons' have been exposed so many times through the public press and other-

Our Best Seller,

We are selling more of Meritol Eczema Remedy than all the others put together. This large sale is due to the fact that it is a preparation of unusual merit, made expressly for one purpose, eczema in its various forms. If you are afflicted with this loathsome disease, do not delay using Meritol Eczema Remedy. Owl Prescription Pharmacy, Frank D. Cohan, Opposite Chandler Hotel, Phone 74. Central Avenue Drug Store, local agency. Prices 50c and \$1.00.

wise that it is astonishing any intelligent person can be so shamefully imposed upon by them.

"If you will call at this office I will show you letters from one of their members to another of their members where they divided the money obtained from some of their victims and where one of them bought for \$400 from another of their agents the (pretended) right to establish lodges in Oregon.

"Also I will show you letters from the Grand Lodge of Scotland denying that it (the Grand Lodge of Scotland) ever gave the 'American Masonic Federation' any charter or authority to establish lodges in America or elsewhere.

"No Masonic grand body of Scotland or any other country can legally form lodges in America.

"Hoping that I have made this so very plain that anyone can understand it, I am, fraternally yours,
 "JAMES F. ROBINSON,
 "Grand Secretary Grand Lodge A. F. and A. M. of Oregon."

Following are extracts from and copies of letters from grand secretaries of England and Scotland bearing on the standing of McBlain Thomson and others connected with the American Masonic Federation:
 Extract from letter of Albert A. A. Murray to W. H. Lindsay, a member of the 'American Masonic Federation':

"Edinburg, Scotland, Feb. 15, 1911.
 "W. H. Lindsay:—I have received your letter of January 27 . . .

"Fourth—Its active members are, so far as I know, of no standing whatever.

"Fifth—The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, which is the only legitimate Royal Arch body in Scotland, does not recognize the Council of Rites.

"The latter has no authority whatever to confer the Royal Arch degree, either in Scotland or out of it.

"In no circumstances will Thomson or his confederates, in my opinion, be recognized by the Grand Priory." (Knights Templar.)

"They have absolutely no right to confer the degrees. Degrees conferred by them or by their authority will not be recognized by any of the regular Templar jurisdictions throughout the world.

"Neither Spence, Thomson or Jamison have the thirty-third degree.

"(Signed) ALFRED A. A. MURRAY,
 "Grand Secretary Grand Chapter, Scotland."

Authority "Only His Own."

Copy of letter from grand secretary of grand lodge of Scotland:
 "Edinburg, Scotland, Nov. 5, 1912. James F. Robinson, Grand Secretary, Oregon: I have this morning received your letter of the 24th ult., making inquiries in regard to the authority of McBlain Thompson to establish lodges and confer degrees within your grand jurisdiction and that of other grand lodges in America.

"That person has no authority from the grand lodge at all. Nor has he any authority from any regular and recognized Masonic body.

"His nefarious work is engineered by himself and a few others of his kind, and the 'authority' he relies on is derived from himself."

"(Signed) DAVID REED,
 "Grand Secretary Grand Lodge of Scotland."

Copy of letter from A. A. A. Murray, grand secretary, Grand Chapter of Scotland:
 "Edinburg, Scotland, Nov. 6, 1912. Jas. F. Robinson, Grand Secretary: I beg to acknowledge your letter of 24th October and I beg to reply officially and categorically as follows:

"The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland never did issue any authority to Mathew McBlain Thompson to organize or to confer any of the degrees under its authority conform to its constitution.

"He did not and does not now, hold either as an individual or as a deputy or in any other capacity whatever, any such authority from it to confer such degrees in any part of the world whatever.

"He does not possess now, and has never received from any of the bodies recognized as legitimate Masonic bodies by the grand lodge, or the supreme grand chapter of Scotland any authority to confer Masonic degrees.

"(Signed) ALFRED A. A. MURRAY,
 "Grand Secretary, Grand Chapter Scotland."

Expulsion Is Asserted.

This letter is also of date November 6, 1912, from Mr. Murray to Mr. Robinson:
 . . . Nearly all the descriptions you quote in connection with Thomson are perversions of the truth, in the sense that he is an expelled Mason and that he is not a member of the recognized Masonic bodies in Scotland bearing the descriptions quoted by you.

"I think you should not hesitate to publish as widely as possible the fact of the expulsion."

Copy of letter from grand secretary, grand lodge, England:
 "London, 24th March, 1914, James F. Robinson, Grand Secretary—In reply to your inquiry in your letter of the 10th inst. The grand lodge of England knows nothing of the body styling itself 'The American Masonic Federation' and has never recognized or exchanged representatives with it.

"(Signed) 'E. LETCHWORTH,
 "Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge, England."

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