

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MASONRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

At the request of M.W. the Grand Master, R.W. Brother L. Watts Doney then read the following review of the history of Masonry in this Province:

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren:

This is indeed an auspicious and commemorable occasion, for while in dutiful obedience to the Constitution of this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, we are assembled in Regular Communication on this annually recurrent day, to wit the Thursday preceding St. John's Day, being the 23rd day of June, Anno Domini 1921, Anno Lucis 5921, to review and report on the progress of Freemasonry in this Jurisdiction during the year ended the 31st day of December last, so, too, through the bountiful goodness of The Most High, are we privileged to consider in retrospect the operation and expansion of Grand Lodge for the past fifty years, this year actually being the Semi-Centennial year, since the formation of this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, which held its First Regular Communication in this City of Victoria on the 26th day of December, Anno Domini 1871, Anno Lucis 5871. From the records of Grand Lodge we learn that possibly the first publicly made reference to any assembling of Freemasons appeared in the columns

of "The British Colonist" of the issue of the 6th day of September, 1859, and was held to arrange for the Freemasons of the Colony to attend and to conduct the obsequies of Bro. Samuel James Hazeltine, who was the Chief Engineer of the Hudson's Bay Company's ss. "Labouchere," and who died at the Royal Hospital, Victoria; but there would appear to have been no publicly or otherwise recorded meeting of the Craft prior to the 20th day of March, 1860, although obviously Meetings were held, as the Warrant issued by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of England, through the Earl of Zetland, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, to Victoria Lodge, No. 1085, bore the date of the 19th day of March, 1859, and on the aforesaid 20th day of March, 1860, in the issue of "The British Colonist," there appeared this notice:

"Victoria Lodge No. 1085. Our Masonic Brethren will be pleased to learn that the Charter applied for to the Grand Lodge of England has arrived, and is now in possession of J. J. Southgate, Esq. Arrangements are now in progress to speedily organize the Lodge in 'due and ancient form,' of which the Brethren will have 'due and timely notice.'"

And although, apparently, the Warrant did not arrive at Victoria until a full year after its date of issue, yet the Brethren seemed to have moved most tardily in completing the arrangements, for it was only on the 28th day of August, 1860, that the Lodge was solemnly constituted according to ancient usage, as Victoria Lodge No. 1085 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England, the following members being present, viz. :

James Johnson Southgate, Merchant.
 George Pearkes, Solicitor.
 James N. Thain, Merchant.
 Amor de Cosmos, Editor.
 Kady Gambitz, Draper.
 Thomas Harris, Gentleman.
 Lumley Franklin, Broker.
 John T. Howard, Publican.
 William Henry Thain, Carrier.
 H. J. McDonell (vocation not given).

and W. Jeffray, whose name was inadvertently omitted, and the following Officers were installed by Past Masters Robert Burnaby and Henry Aguillar:

Bro. J. J. Southgate, W.M.
 " Geo. Pearkes, S.W.
 " W. Jeffray, J.W.
 " J. Thain, T.
 " A. de Cosmos, S.
 " W. H. Thain, S.D.
 " K. Gambitz, J.D.
 " L. Franklin, I.G.
 " R. J. McDonell, T.

the good Brethren having chosen among their Officers, as you may have observed, neither of the two Brethren vocationally designated gentleman and publican.

It would appear to be worthy of record here that John Malowanski was the first candidate initiated in Victoria Lodge 1085 E.C., and consequently the first Initiate in Freemasonry in British Columbia; and so Victoria Lodge No. 1085, which was organized in 1860 with a membership of eleven, and nett liabilities of about \$1,350, was the nucleus of the Lodge which is to-day Victoria-Columbia No. 1, with a membership of 392, and nett assets amounting to \$53,500.

A start having been made it might naturally be expected that where there were Freemasons gathered in sufficiently large numbers, it would commend itself to them to form a new Lodge, and actually during the Winter of the same year—1860—the Brethren residing at New Westminster; and comprising

- Bro. Henry Holbrook
- “ Doctor Seddall, R.E.
- “ Peacock, Clerk to Bro. Holbrook
- “ Frye, Customs Official
- “ Hickey, Constable
- “ Levi, Storekeeper
- “ Boos, Storekeeper, and
- “ William Stewart

met together and resolved to make application to the Grand Lodge of England for a Charter or Warrant of Constitution for a new Lodge to be called Union Lodge. The prayer of the petitioners being granted, the Warrant was issued bearing date of the 16th day of December, 1861—the name and number being Union Lodge No. 1201 E.C. Next a futile attempt was made by some American Freemasons who had come to reside in Victoria, to organize and obtain a Charter under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Washington, principally it is said on account of their not being familiar with the work practised by Victoria Lodge No. 1085. E. C., and to which innovation Victoria Lodge validly protested, at a meeting of the Lodge on the 24th day of January, 1861, at which meeting the following resolution was passed :

“Whereas we have been informed that a party in this Community have applied to the Grand Lodge of Washington Territory for a Dispensation or Warrant to organize a Lodge of F. and A.M. in this town, it is therefore Resolved. That while we hail the Grand Lodge of Washington Territory and all other Grand Lodges as Brethren and Masons, we do not recognize their power to grant Dispensations or Warrants out of the district of their own Country, and all Dispensations and Warrants emanating from any other source than the Grand Lodges of the Mother Country in this place, we shall hold as clandestine, and all Masons visiting such Lodges cannot be recognized as Masons.

Several Brethren resolved to make application for a Warrant to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and on the 16th day of May, 1862; sought the co-operation and recommendation of Victoria Lodge, which granted the request, but at the same time manifested their intention of maintaining the precedence of the Grand Lodge of England, as will be realized from the following resolution:

“That the Victoria Lodge No. 1085 cordially responds to the petition of the Brethren desirous to establish a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Scotland; but in doing so, they reserve the precedence of the Grand Lodge of England in general Masonic affairs within the Colony, and they communicate this resolution to the Grand Lodge of England as a matter of record.”

In response to the application, the Grand Lodge of Scotland duly issued and forwarded the desired Warrant, and on the 20th day of October, 1862, the following Brethren met in the Hall of Victoria Lodge, No. 1085, E .C ., to organize the new Lodge, to be known as Vancouver Lodge No. 421 , S.C. viz.:

Bro. William Jeffery
 “ Sam Goldstone
 “ J. R. Stewart
 ‘ A. Scorgie
 “ A. Blackman
 “ T. S. Alett
 “ Morris Meyer and
 “ R. J. McDonnell.

The Principal Officers named in the Warrant were installed at this Meeting, as follows :

Bro. William Jeffery R.W. Master
 “ S. Goldstone Senior Warden
 “ Alex. Cain Junior Warden

Bro. Alex. Cain being absent was necessarily installed by proxy. Nanaimo was the next place to move for a new Lodge, for on the 15th day of May, 1867, the new Lodge was duly constituted as Nanaimo Lodge No. 1090 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England.

Then followed in the same year in Victoria, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, the constitution of British Columbia Lodge No. 1187, the Warrant bearing date of 26th July, 1867.

Now it is only reasonable to suppose, seeing there were four Warranted Lodges working under the Grand Lodge of England that the Brethren should have made such representation to the Mother Grand Lodge that a Patent of appointment to some worthy Brother would long ere this have been issued by the Grand Master with full authority to form a District Grand Lodge. But although on various occasions the Brethren had petitioned the Grand Lodge to this end, and while more than the requisite number of three lodges, stated by the Mother

Grand Lodge as a condition precedent had been passed, yet the patent was withheld. But, in the meantime, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, with only one Lodge under its jurisdiction, thought it worth while to make such provision, and issued a Commission dated the 6th day of May, 1867, appointing Worshipful Brother Israel Wood Powell as Provincial Grand Master for the Colony.

On the 24th day of December, 1867, R.W. Brother Powell presided over a Meeting at which there were also present :

Bro. N. J. Neustadt
 “ E. C. Holden
 “ M. W. Waitt
 “ A. C. Campbell
 “ A. G. Richardson
 “ Rev. Thos. Somerville
 “ R. H. Adams
 “ J. E. Hunt
 “ P. J. Hall
 “ J. R. Stewart
 “ H. B. W. Aikman

and duly invested the Provincial Grand Officers as follows:

R. W. Bro.	Norton J. Neustadt . Prov.	Deputy Grand Master
W.	“ R. H. Adams	“ Senior Grand Warden
W.	“ J. E. Hunt	“ Junior Grand Warden
W.	“ J. R. Stewart	“ Grand Treasurer
W.	“ A. G. Richardson	“ Grand Secretary
W.	“ Rev. T. Somerville	“ Grand Chaplain
W.	“ A. C. Campbell	“ Senior Grand Deacon
W.	“ E. C. Holden.....	“ Junior Grand Deacon
W.	“ H. B. W. Aikman	“ Grand Sword Bearer
W.	“ P. J. Hall	“ Grand Tyler

But no mention is made of when and by whom the installation of the Provincial Grand Master, R. Wor. Bro. Powell, was performed.

At this Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, the Provincial Grand Master informed the Brethren that he had granted Dispensations to two new Lodges—one at Barkersville and the other at Nanaimo, these two Lodges some time afterward being respectively Warranted as Cariboo No. 469 S.C., and Caledonia No. 478 S.C.

It would seem not unlikely that the formation of this Provincial Grand Lodge hastened the Grand Lodge of England in their decision to comply with the oft repeated request of the Brethren comprising the four Lodges under its jurisdiction, and realizing the possibility of losing that precedence which Victoria Lodge No. 1085 had so valiantly and jealously guarded in the past, issued a patent, on the 10th day of September, 1867, to Worshipful Brother Robert Burnaby as District Grand Master for the Colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island.

On the 14th day of March, 1868, a meeting was held at Wor. Bro. Burnaby's house, when the following were present:

Bro. Robert Burnaby
 “ Henry Holbrook
 “ W. Clark
 “ J. Cooper
 “ Lumley Franklin
 “ George Pearkes, and
 “ Robert Plummer, Jr.

The choice of District Grand Officers fell on the following :

W. Bro. H. Holbrook, P.M. Lodge No. 899, Deputy District Grand Master.
 W. Bro. J. F. McCreight, W.M. Lodge No. 783, District Senior Grand Warden.
 W. Bro. W. H. Smith, W.M. Lodge No. 899, District Junior Grand Warden.
 Bro. Rev. F. P. Gribble, M.M. Lodge No: 1187, District Grand Chaplain.
 W. Bro. G. Pearkes, P.M. Lodge No. 783, District Grand Registrar.
 Bro. R. Plummer, Jun. D. of C. Lodge No. 783, District Grand Secretary.
 W. Bro. W. Clark, W.M. Lodge No. 1090, District Senior Grand Deacon.
 W. Bro. T. Harris, W.M. Lodge No. 1187, District Junior Grand Deacon.
 W. Bro. R. Lewis, P .M. Lodge No. 783, District Grand Superintendent of Works.
 W. Bro. L. Franklin, P.M. Lodge No. 783, District Grand Director of Ceremonies.
 W. Bro. W. Beck, P.M. Lodge No. 783, District Grand Sword Bearer.
 W. Bro. P. Medana, Org. Lodge No. 783, District Grand Organist.
 Bro. J. Blackbourne, S.W. Lodge No. 783, District Grand Pursuivant.
 W. Bro. J. Cooper, P.M. Lodge No. 899. District Grand Steward.
 W. Bro. W. H. Franklyn, P.M. Lodge No. 1090, District Grand Steward.
 Bro. G. Creighton, S.D. Lodge No. 1187, District Grand Tyler.

As there may possibly be some confusion in the minds of some of the Brethren as to the designations District and Provincial, let me say they mean precisely the same as to extent of jurisdiction, the exact

definition being given in Section 78 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England as follows: In Colonies and foreign parts the terms District Grand Master and District Grand Lodge are used to distinguish such Officers and Lodges from Provincial Grand Masters and Provincial Grand Lodges in England—a distinction without a difference therefore excepting as to country of location. The next Lodge was formed at Hastings in January, 1869, and was known as Mount Herman Lodge, being No. 491 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and subsequently a dispensation was granted by the Provincial Grand Master for Scotland for Quadra Lodge, which was constituted on the 7th day of January, 1871, and became No. 508 S.C.

We have now (early in the year 1871) nine Lodges in all. Four Lodges under the Grand Lodge of England, governed by the District Grand Lodge for the Colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, and presided over by R. Wor. Bro. Robert Burnaby, District Grand Master, viz.:

Victoria No. 783, E.C., at Victoria.
 Union No. 899, E.C.; at New Westminster.
 Nanaimo No. 1090. E.C., at Nanaimo, and
 British Columbia No. 1187. E.C., at Victoria :

and five Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, governed by the Provincial Grand Lodge, and presided over by R. Wor. Bro. Israel Wood Powell, viz.:

Vancouver No. 421, S.C., at Victoria.
 Cariboo No. 469, S.C., at Barkersville.
 Caledonia No. 478. S.C., at Nanaimo.
 Mount Herman. No. 491. S.C., at Hastings.
 Quadra No. 508. S.C., at Victoria.

But while the District and Provincial Grand Lodges had been so well formed, and proceeded on the even tenor of their way under the control of R. Wor. Brothers Robert Burnaby and Israel Wood Powell, who were doing such noble work, and under whose careful guidance and solicitousness that Harmony which should at all times characterize Freemasons prevailed, for these two worthy Brethren, between whom there existed the warmest personal friendship, practised in a most eminent degree that Grand Principle of Freemasonry—Brotherly Love, and it is unresentedly conceded that at all times it was clearly evidenced they had but one end and aim and object in view, that of working together in perfect harmony to promote the Peace, the Prosperity and permanent welfare of the Craft, another vital situation a rose, not prompted by unrest and dissatisfaction, neither merely of wishing to shake off the restraint of being governed by the parent Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, but rather, having in view the desirability of being able to deal promptly and locally with all matters of importance, of which obviously there

was a constant recurrence, and being in fact mainly the revival of a movement which had already received tangible support, as is evidenced by the records of a Regular Meeting of Victoria Lodge, held on the 16th day of December, 1868, at which there were present thirty members of the Lodge and seven visitors, three hailing from Cariboo Lodge, and one from Union Lodge. At this meeting the line of action was agreed on and resolutions formulated, reciting the disadvantages and difficulties under which Freemasonry was being carried on, in consequence of the insuperable delays in inter-communication caused by the great distance which separated the Lodges from the Mother Grand Lodge, and pointing out how very desirable and advantageous it would be to proceed at the earliest possible date with the formation of an independent Grand Lodge.

And so it came to pass that on the 2nd day of January, 1869, the resolutions drafted at the previous Meeting were adopted, and a copy sent to the other Lodges in the Colony, with a request that a general conference be arranged to devise ways and means to carry the proposal into effect, forthwith. The Lodges under the Grand Lodge of England, excepting of course Victoria Lodge, at whose instance the movement started, viewed the representations unfavourably, and refused to join in the petition to Grand Lodge, but all the Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, excepting Caledonia No. 478, readily concurred and appointed delegates to the conference. However, Victoria Lodge in due course forwarded the resolutions to the District Grand Master, who with a noteworthy impartial statement accompanying, despatched them to Very Worshipful Brother John Hervey, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, who in reply to Right Worshipful Brother Burnaby's letter, expressed his regret that the Brethren had resolved so to act, and thereby to alienate themselves from the Mother Grand Lodge, and with a Grand Lodge of such limited proportions possibly to incur the ridicule of the World Masonic.

Moreover, the Provincial Grand Master of the Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, while agreeing with the petitioners and fully recognizing the importance of having an independent Grand Lodge, likewise refrained from expediting the matter other than by transmitting a copy of the resolutions to his Grand Lodge, as to the reply to which there is no record.

Vancouver Lodge still pursued its activities and ascertained from several Canadian and American Lodges that they were in sympathy with and manifested their approval of the consummation of such movement, and so at a Meeting held on the 18th day of January, 1871, a Committee was appointed to convene a Meeting of the Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of the Lodges in the Colony, which ensued on the 18th day of March, 1871, and at which only representatives of the Scottish Lodges were represented, for the District Board of General Purposes had meantime resolved to disallow the attendance of Victoria Lodge, whose request to be allowed to send delegates to the Convention had been submitted to the Board through the District Grand Master.

At this Meeting it is only known that Wor. Bros. Simeon Duck and G. C. Keays and Bros. H. F. Heisterman and George Grant were present, there being no authentic record obtainable, but although he was absent from Victoria, Right Worshipful Brother I. W. Powell was elected Grand Master and Brother H. F. Heisterman, Grand Secretary. Most Wor. Bro. the Hon. Ellwood Evans, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington, accepted an invitation to instal Right Wor. Bro. Powell on his return from England and invest the Officers at a subsequent Meeting at which Right Wor. Bro. Robert Burnaby was invited to be present, but instead he instructed the District Grand Secretary to attend and voice his protest against the proceedings, which objection actually resulted in the indefinite deferment of the proceedings. That dissensions and differences between those Brethren who desired it, and those who looked unfavourably on the formation of the new Grand Lodge, were perceivable to the District and Provincial Grand Masters, whose responsibilities naturally made them solicitous: for the peace and prosperity of the Lodges particularly under their government, as well as for the welfare of Freemasonry in British Columbia in general, is beyond dispute, for these two governors in the Craft, after many conferences, and having looked into the matter from all sides, arrived at the decision to refer it to a vote of the Brethren in their District and Provincial jurisdictions respectively, it being a stipulation to which the Brethren evinced all deference, that should the Craft by their vote decide to form an independent Grand Lodge, either Right Wor. Bro. Burnaby or Right Wor. Bro. Powell should be the first Grand Master, and that the one who was not elected Grand Master should be made Past Grand Master. To that end the District and Provincial Grand Masters circularized the several Lodges under them to consider and to record their vote on the proposal of the formation of an independent Grand Lodge, and to report the result thereof. Though not unanimous, the result of the vote must be considered eminently satisfactory, for out of a total vote of 222 cast, 194 voted "For" the new Grand Lodge, and only 28 "Against." This decision so heartened the Brethren that they were most anxious to progress still further without delay, and the Right Worshipful District Grand Master, E.C., and the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, S.C., issued to their respective Subordinate Lodges a letter, giving the result of the voting and convening a further Meeting of the Brethren at Victoria, on the 21st day of October, 1871, "To determine details and to take such action as may be deemed necessary for the formation of an Independent Grand Lodge of Freemasons in British Columbia." Of the nine Lodges in the Province eight were represented at that meeting, Union Lodge No. 899, E.C., New Westminster, refusing to join, their temporary aloofness losing for them their numerical precedence which would have been No. 2, B.C.R.

Right Worshipful Brother Burnaby, after a few brief and appropriate remarks, moved, and Right Worshipful Brother Powell seconded the following resolution :

“*Resolved*, that in order to establish fraternal harmony and concord and to promote the lasting welfare of the Masonic fraternity in British Columbia, it is expedient to form a Grand Lodge in and for the Province of British Columbia.”

The resolution was declared to be carried unanimously, with much applause. Next Brother S. D. Levi moved, and Brother M. W. Waitt seconded the following resolution:

“That the Representatives now in Convention assembled, on behalf of their respective Lodges represented by them, do hereby declare themselves to be and that they now proceed to organize the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia.” Carried unanimously.

Right Worshipful Brother Burnaby moved, and Right Worshipful Brother Powell seconded, that the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England for the present be adopted, so far as may be found applicable to existing circumstances, except nevertheless that the following Officers shall be elected by Grand Lodge. viz. : Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Chaplain, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Tyler, the remaining Officers to be appointed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

An amendment to add “That the Grand Secretary also be elected.” was lost by 15 voting “aye” and 191 voting “no”—after which the resolution was carried unanimously.

The next business was the election of Grand Officers, with which Grand Lodge proceeded, when the following were duly nominated and declared unanimously elected :

Most Wor. Bro.	Israel Wood Powell	.....	Grand Master
Right “	“	Hon. J. F. McCreight	..... Deputy Grand Master
“	“	Simeon Duck	..... Senior Grand Warden
“	“	Henry Nathan, Junr.	..... Junior Grand Warden
Very “	“	Rev. F. Gribbell	..... Grand Chaplain
“	“	M. W. Waitt	..... Grand Treasurer
“	“	P. J. Hall	..... Grand Tyler

The following additional resolutions then followed:

(1) Constituting Right Wor. Bro. Burnaby a permanent member of this Grand Lodge, with the title, rank and dignity of Past Grand Master.

(2) Constituting Right Wor. Bro. James A. Grahame a permanent member of this Grand Lodge, with the rank, title and dignity of Past Deputy Grand Master.

(3) Authorizing the issue of provisional Warrants to all Lodges “desiring to continue their work,” and determining that the number and

status of each Lodge represented should be in accordance with the date of the Warrant from the Grand Lodge under which they had worked to the time of the formation of this Grand Lodge.

(4) Appointing a Committee of five, together with the Chairman and Secretary of the Convention, to frame a Constitution and General Regulations for the government of Grand Lodge, the said Committee being

Bro. Robert Burnaby
 “ Israel Wood Powell
 “ Henry Nathan, Jr.
 “ Simeon Duck, and
 “ Marshall W. Waitt.

(5) Requiring all Lodges of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons in the Province of British Columbia, to surrender to their respective Grand Lodges, the Warrants now held by them on or before the 1st day of January, 1872. The Most Worshipful Grand Master-elect, and the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master-elect, both of whom had been absent during the election, on returning to the Lodge, were notified by the Chairman of the Convention of the result of the election. Most Worshipful Brother Powell acknowledged the distinguished honour conferred upon him, and expressed his heartfelt hope, that with the cordial sympathy, assistance, and co-operation of all the Craft, his acceptance of the sacred trust might only tend to cement and perpetuate the harmony and happiness of the Fraternity in British Columbia.

Most Worshipful Past Grand Master-elect, Brother Burnaby, congratulated the Craft assembled on the regularity of their proceedings, and Most Worshipful Brother the Grand Master-elect, upon the high honour which had been conferred upon him, and whose election he considered could only be productive of good to the united Craft of the Province. After it had been arranged to convene a Meeting for the purpose of Installation of Most Worshipful Brother I. W. Powell and investiture of Officers on the 26th and 27th December, 1871, the proceedings terminated.

Brethren, may we not here well pause for a moment to pay well merited tribute to the two Brethren whose untiring and unselfish labours so successfully laid the foundation of this Grand Lodge on such a permanent and lasting basis. Surely we must express our heartfelt appreciation of the unbounded integrity and nobleness of their characters in that while they at all times evinced their unlimited loyalty to the parent Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, in which they respectively held high office and responsibility, yet when it clearly manifested itself to them to be opportune, aye and indeed of vital and paramount necessity for the uniting of all discordant elements and the conciliation of all who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance, and principally the English and Scottish Freemasons of this Province, both Most Worshipful Brother Burnaby and Most Worshipful Brother

Powell sank their own personal feelings. They sacrificed much in retiring from their high positions as District and Provincial Grand Masters under the jurisdiction of the two foremost Grand Lodges of the world, for let me quote you Section 82 of the Constitution of the Mother Grand Lodge of England. It reads thus :

“The appointment of Provincial or District Grand Master is a prerogative of the Grand Master, by whom a patent may be granted, during pleasure, to any Brother of eminence and ability in the Craft. By this patent the Brother is invested with the rank and power in his particular Province or District, similar to those possessed by the Grand Master.” And they most thoroughly and successfully completed the task they had elected to perform for the universal good of this great and ancient confraternity.

And now, having completed our review of the various facts and special incidents relating thereto, and having satisfied ourselves that the foundation of Grand Lodge was indeed well and truly laid, let us pass on and, direct our attention to the Proceedings of this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, held at the Masonic Hall, Government Street, in this City of Victoria, on the 26th day of December, 1871, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon

A Lodge of Master Masons was opened, the principal Officers being Right Worshipful Brother Past Deputy Grand Master-elect, James Grahame; in the Chair ; Right Worshipful Brother Senior Grand Warden-elect, Simeon Duck in the West, and Worshipful Brother W. B. Wilson in the South, and as the records further inform us, there was also “A large and influential gathering of members of the Craft from all parts of the Province, hailing from the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland.”

At this meeting, which, as it proceeded, formed the evolution of the First Communication of Grand Lodge, necessarily the most important matter on the agenda was the completion of the organization of the Grand Lodge by the Installation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master-elect, Most Worshipful Brother Israel Wood Powell. Right Worshipful Brother Grahame appointed Worshipful Brother Eli Harrison as Director of Ceremonies, who retired from the Lodge, and on his return reported that Right Worshipful (Past Grand Master-elect) Brother Robert Burnaby, was in waiting, ready to install the Most Worshipful Grand Master-elect into his high and responsible office. A Deputation of Past Masters was appointed, and under the Director of Ceremonies, retired from the Lodge, and immediately returned escorting Right Worshipful Brother Burnaby, the Installing Officer, who was formally introduced by the Director of Ceremonies, received by the Brethren with the Grand Honours, and most cordially welcomed by the Worshipful Master presiding who handed him the Gavel of Authority, and requested him to proceed with the important ceremony assigned to him.

The Grand Master-elect, Most Worshipful Brother Israel Wood Powell, was then duly obligated, invested and duly installed Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia, and saluted with the Grand Honours, and so proclaimed in the East, West, and South. The Grand Master then installed or invested the elected and appointed Officers of Grand Lodge, viz.:

Right Wor. Bro.	Hon. J. F. McCreight	Deputy Grand Master
“	“ Simeon Duck	Senior Grand Warden
“	“ Henry Nathan, Junr., M.D	Junior Grand Warden
Very	“ M. W. Waitt	Grand Treasurer
“	“ H. F. Heisterman	Grand Secretary
“	“ Rev. F. Gribbell	Grand Chaplain
Wor.	William Clarke	Senior Grand Deacon
“	“ N. J. Ragazzoni	Junior Grand Deacon
“	“ R. Lewis	Grand Supt. of Works
“	“ Eli Harrison	Grand Dir. of Cer.
“	“ W. Dalby	Grand Marshal
“	“ Thos. Shotbolt	Sword Bearer
“	“ W. B. Wilson.....	Grand Standard Bearer
“	“ J. J. Austin	Grand Organist
“	“ S. L. Kelly	Grand Pursuivant
“	“ J. Winger	Grand Steward
“	“ J. Crump	Grand Steward
“	“ H. Brown.....	Grand Steward
“	“ J. S. Thompson, M.P	Grand Steward
“	“ J. C. Hughes, M.P.P	Grand Steward
“	“ P. J. Hall	Grand Tyler

Wor. Bro. Thomas Harris, P.M., was appointed Junior Grand Warden *pro tem*.

These Brethren being absent, were not invested. (?)

The Proclamation was then made, and the Grand Lodge Officers declared duly installed, and the Grand Honours given.

The Installation Officer, now properly styled Most Worshipful Brother Robert Burnaby, Past Grand Master, addressed Grand Lodge, congratulating the Grand Master on the happy consummation of all matters pertaining to the foundation of Grand Lodge and gave a complete explanation, furnishing the original communications that had passed between him and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of England and in respect to the formation of this Grand Lodge. The Most Worshipful Grand Master graciously replied thereto, and presented Most Worshipful Brother Burnaby with a handsome Past Grand Master's Jewel.

Most Worshipful Brother Burnaby made a most feeling and eloquent reply, and after prayer by the Grand Chaplain, the Lodge of Master Masons was closed.

The Grand Master, on the Throne, then for the first time opened the Grand Lodge of British Columbia in Ample Form.

The Grand Master made announcement from the East, West and South that the Grand Lodge of British Columbia was about to be consecrated and dedicated, and enjoined upon all the Brethren due order and decorum.

The Grand Lodge having been duly consecrated and dedicated according to Ancient Form, was called from labour to refreshment, to meet again at 8 o'clock p.m.

Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labour at 8 o'clock p.m., when the Most Worshipful Grand Master addressed the Brethren generally on the work before them. The constituent Lodges comprising Grand Lodge, and their respective numbers, were as follows:

Victoria Lodge	No. 1
Vancouver Lodge.....	“ 2
Nanaimo Lodge	“ 3
Cariboo Lodge	“ 4
British Columbia Lodge	“ 5
Caledonia Lodge	“ 6
Mount Hermon Lodge	“ 7
Quadra Lodge	“ 8

It was resolved :

That the Seal of the District Grand Lodge, E.C., be altered to suit this Grand Lodge, and adopted as the Seal of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

A Committee was formed :

To adopt designs for a Grand Lodge Warrant and Diploma, and to have them engrossed forthwith.

The Committee appointed to draft a Constitution for Grand Lodge presented their report, and the Constitution as submitted was unanimously adopted as the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia. Grand Lodge was then called from labour to refreshment at half-past ten o'clock p.m. this 26th day of December, 1871, and labour resumed on Wednesday, the 27th day of December, 1871, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the first order of business being to read and confirm the Minutes of the Convention of 21st October, 1871, and the proceedings of the afternoon and evening sessions of the preceding day, for what good purpose is not clear, but possibly to administer the affairs of Grand Lodge securely as they went.

At this Session the principal items of business were :

The reception and adoption of the Address of the Grand Master, and the special adoption by Resolution of the recommendations arising out of the Grand Master's address, respecting:

1. Ritual and Regalia.
2. Fund of Benevolence.
3. Collection of all arrears due the late District and Provincial Grand Lodges forthwith.
4. Sealing up of late District and Provincial Grand Lodge books as far as they had been written in, and afterwards utilized for the purposes of this Grand Lodge, whereby a considerable saving will be effected.
5. The speedy erection of a Masonic Temple.
6. The constitution of a Board of General Purposes without delay. The Grand Lodge dealt effectively with the last item, first by immediately proceeding to elect members to that august body and by referring all other recommendations in the Grand Master's address to the Board for full action thereon. The Charity Fund was instituted at this Communication. And then, as a concluding act of grace and prerogative the Grand Master verbally granted dispensations to the Grand Officers and members of the constituent Lodges to appear in full regalia at the ball to be held in honour of the inauguration of the Grand Lodge.

The business of this Communication having been completed, the Grand Lodge was closed in Ample Form with solemn prayer.

The membership of the Craft at this time was 300.

The Second Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was held in the City of Victoria on the 7th and 9th of December, 1872, Anno Lucis 5872, Most Worshipful Brother Israel Wood Powell, Grand Master, in the Chair. There were nine Lodges on the roll. Union Lodge of New Westminster having decided to join the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, but had to be content with being No. 9 B.C.R. instead of No. 2, the number that Lodge would have borne had the Brethren decided to unite with the other eight Lodges in the initial proceedings of formation of the new Grand Lodge. Peculiar during the early stages of this Session were the findings of the Committee on Credentials of Representatives and Proxies of Lodges, there being some informality in the authorization of the representatives, but, nothing daunted, Section 2 of the Constitution was suspended to overcome the difficulty.

The Grand Master reported that all the Grand Lodges of the other Provinces in the Dominion, and those of the United States, excepting Indiana, had accorded the Grand Lodge of British Columbia hearty recognition, and a warm welcome. Indiana apparently was waiting the

action of the parent Grand Lodges of England and Scotland before giving its recognition.

During the year the Grand Master officially visited all the constituent Lodges, excepting Cariboo Lodge No. 4, the distance and difficulty of travel to Cariboo Lodge apparently being insuperable. At this Session it was resolved to inaugurate the Fund of Benevolence and Widows' and Orphans' Fund. During the year under review, to wit on the 30th July, 1872, Grand Lodge held a Special Communication at New Westminster, where at the request of the Trustees of the Masonic Cemetery Committee. Grand Lodge convened to lay the foundation stone of the Mortuary Chapel of the Masonic Cemetery at Sapperton.

The Hall of Union Lodge, No. 899 E.C., was placed at the disposal of Grand Lodge, which was opened in Ample Form at 2 o'clock p.m., with solemn prayer, and a procession formed and wended its way to the scene of operations.

The foundation stone having been well and truly laid by the Grand Master, the procession was re-formed and returned to the Lodge room, when Grand Lodge was closed in Ample Form with solemn prayer at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

It is further recorded in the annals of Grand Lodge that in the evening, by Dispensation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, a Ball was held, which was graced by a large attendance of the fair sex of the City of New Westminster, and surrounding towns.

And although it is close to 49 years since the foundation stone was "well and truly laid," I learn from unimpeachable authority that no superstructure whatever has been added up to this present moment.

The Brethren in their wisdom re-elected Most Worshipful Brother Israel Wood Powell, Grand Master, who installed or invested the Officers of Grand Lodge for 1872-1873. The Returns of the Constituent Lodges totalled 317 Brethren.

The Third Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Victoria, on the 6th and 8th of December, 1873.

Again Section 2 of the Constitution was suspended "as far as the appointment of proxies was concerned."

The Bye-Laws for the Funds—the Benevolence Fund, and the Widows and Orphans' Fund—were submitted and approved. To provide 'the money necessary to start these two Fund Grand Lodge decided that each Lodge should pay \$2.00 for each subscribing member on the roll, and that every candidate raised, or affiliated from a Lodge without the Province should also contribute \$2.00. To support these Funds it was decided to assess each Lodge \$3.00 per annum for each member. Of the total amount so collected it was decided to apply

Three-fourths to the Fund of Benevolence;
 One-fourth to the Widows and Orphans' Fund.

It is gratifying to note that the Lodges had contributed to these Funds \$935.50.

Grand Lodge approved of the amalgamation of the two Lodges at Nanaimo, viz.: Nanaimo Lodge No. 3 and Caledonia Lodge No. 6, the united Lodges to be known as Ashlar No. 3, B.C.R.

Most Worshipful Brother Israel Wood Powell was re-elected as Grand Master, and having been duly invested, installed and proclaimed, proceeded to instal or invest the Officers of Grand Lodge for the ensuing year.

The Board of General Purposes was then elected, after which Grand Lodge was closed in Ample Form with solemn prayer.

The Returns show the members to be 282, a slight decrease since last Grand Lodge, accounted for principally by striking off 15 names for non-payment of dues.

The Fourth Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was held at Victoria on the 20th, 22nd and 23rd February, 1875 there being no Regular Communication held during the year 1874, there being some difference of opinion and objection to the date of meeting, but the Returns to 30th November, 1874, shew a total membership of 307.

A Special Communication, however, was held at Nanaimo on the 21st day of October, 1874, for the purpose of consecrating the new Masonic Hall built by the Brethren of Ashlar Lodge No. 3. The records show that the Most Worshipful Grand Master opened the Lodge on the Master Mason's Degree, and singularly enough no mention whatever is made of the opening of Grand Lodge in Ample Form. It is unlikely that this was done, for at the termination of the ceremony the Grand Master surrendered the gavel to Brother James Brown, who, after thanking the Grand Master for performing the consecration of the Lodge, proceeded to initiate into Freemasonry the candidate, Alfred Samuel Gill.

A Banquet immediately followed the ceremony. The usual toasts were drunk : The Queen and the Craft, the Prince of Wales. Grand Master of England, and the Grand Master of British Columbia, and "The health and prosperity of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodges of England and Scotland. The Most Worshipful Grand Master here vouchsafed the information that the Grand Lodge of England by a letter under date of the 14th day of April, 1874, from the Grand Secretary, Very Worshipful Brother John Hervey, had notified this Grand Lodge that the Grand Lodge of England "would be happy to recognize the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, and to exchange Representatives."

The Minutes again shed no further light on this being a Special Communication, for they record that the Lodge was then closed in Due Form, and after a few other toasts the company separated till evening, when a Ball, which was graced by the families of the Brethren of Ashlar Lodge No. 3, concluded the celebrations of the day.

At the election of Officers Most Worshipful Brother Powell was re-elected, but declining, Right Worshipful Brother Simeon Duck was declared duly elected Grand Master, and later duly installed by Most Worshipful Brother Powell. It is noteworthy that a Special Communication of Grand Lodge was held in Victoria on 19th August, 1875, on the occasion of a Grand Masonic Reunion of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodges of Oregon, Washington Territory, Idaho, and British Columbia. To pass the accounts and to vote the necessary funds to pay the expenses incurred by this Re-union a Special Communication was held in Victoria on the 30th September, 1875.

The Fifth Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was held in the City of Victoria on the 19th, 22nd, and 24th February, 1876. Most Worshipful Brother Simeon Duck was re-elected Grand Master, but declining, Right Worshipful Brother Frederick Williams was duly elected Grand Master.

The Sixth Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was held at Victoria on the 17th, 19th and 20th February, 1877, but there is nothing of exceptional interest to record. Most Worshipful Brother Frederick Williams was re-elected Grand Master.

The Seventh Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was held at Victoria on the 16th and 18th February, 1878.

During the year 1877. Victoria Lodge No. 1 and British Columbia Lodge No. 5 became united under the name of Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1, and Vancouver Lodge No. 2 and Quadra Lodge No. 8 also become united under the name of Vancouver Quadra Lodge No. 2.

Grand Lodge at this Communication had the regretful duty to chronicle the death of Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Robert Burnaby, who passed away at Leicester, England, on the 12th January, 1878. Our distinguished Brother had taken a trip to England for the benefit of his health, and while we who are privileged to succeed him in the affairs of Freemasonry in this Province may not have known him personally we are well qualified to estimate his capabilities, and the almost superhuman work he did for Freemasonry in British Columbia. His loyalty to the Mother Grand Lodge of the World, and to those who did not wish to join in the formation of the new Grand Lodge, was only equalled by the energetic devotion he gave to the work of the new Grand Lodge when once he had determined that the

time was opportune, and the necessity peremptorily instant. It has been truly said of him, "He was one of nature's gentlemen," and are not the words of that beautiful Charge so familiar to us applicable in this case, for indeed he was one who "quietly and modestly moved in the sphere of his life; who aided his fellowman without self-interest; who in vicissitudes did not despair; who properly understood to estimate and employ his means; who did not cease until he had accomplished his work; and who then retired into the multitude because he did the good work not for himself but for the cause of good."

Most Worshipful Brother Eli Harrison was elected Grand Master.

The Eighth Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was held at Victoria on 21st, 22nd (to attend Divine Service at Christ Church Cathedral) and 23rd June, 1879.

A Special Communication of Grand Lodge was held in Victoria on the 22nd of April, 1878, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the Masonic Temple, and

A Special Communication was also held on the 28th October, 1878, to consecrate the new Masonic Temple, and to consider and adopt the proposed amendments to the Constitution, of which notice had been duly given. Most Worshipful Brother Eli Harrison was re-elected Most Worshipful Grand Master.

The Ninth Annual Communication was held in Victoria on the 19th and 21st June, 1880. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, in his official address, said: "The Grand Lodge of Scotland has acknowledged this Grand Lodge, but not with that generous spirit in which other Grand Bodies have welcomed us, nor with the kind and fraternal greeting accorded by our Mother Grand Lodge of England, for you have the old Charters which she returned, adorning the walls of your Lodge Rooms. How these momentos refresh our minds, and with what pleasure and satisfaction we look upon them, as tokens of fraternal love from our Venerable Mother."

But the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was subject to her claiming the right :

(1) To protect any Lodge or Lodges that may wish to adhere to their allegiance to her in this Jurisdiction—but as there were no such Lodges this need not bother us.

(2) To protect the rights of any Lodges which may hereafter choose to adhere to Her in this Jurisdiction.

This evoked a strong protest, and a resolution denying to any Grand Lodge the right to Warrant Lodges within the Province of British Columbia.

On the 6th April the new Grand Lodge of New South Wales was officially recognized by the Board of General Purposes. But it is difficult to see why the Grand Lodge of Scotland should have considered it necessary to withhold its recognition of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

Most Worshipful Brother Eli Harrison was re-elected Grand Master for the third time in succession.

The Tenth Annual Communication was held in the City of Victoria on the 18th, 19th (Divine Service) and 20th June, 1881. The Grand Master, in his annual address, expresses gratification that the Craft has well maintained its membership and increased its wealth during the past decade, notwithstanding the fact that many Brethren of opulence had left the Province for all parts of the world.

The Board of General Purposes recommended a Charter be granted to Cascade Lodge No. 10, to be formed at Yale.

Most Worshipful Brother Coote M. Chambers was elected Grand Master.

The Eleventh Annual Communication was held in the City of Victoria on 17th, 18th (Divine Service), 19th and 20th June, 1882. The Grand Master reported that, in accordance with the decision of Grand Lodge at the previous Annual Communication, he had issued a Charter to Cascade Lodge No. 10, but regretted that, owing to recent fires which had occurred at Yale and changes incident to railway construction, the Lodge had been compelled to surrender its Charter.

Most Worshipful Brother Henry Brown was elected Grand Master.

The Twelfth Annual Communication was held at the Temporary Hall of Union Lodge No. 9, New Westminster, B.C., on the 23rd and 24th June, 1883.

The Grand Master reported on the visit to the Province of His Excellency the Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne, and Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise in October, 1882, but it had to be noted that on the plea of having had to decline all similar addresses save those of the Lieutenant-Governor and Mayor of the Capital, His Excellency and Her Royal Highness were reluctantly compelled to decline the formal acceptance of the Address.

The Board of General Purposes reported that the Grand Lodge of Scotland had at last officially recognized this Grand Lodge and an exchange of Representatives was effected on 14th June, 1883.

Most Worshipful Brother Edgar Crow Baker was elected Grand Master.

The Thirteenth Annual Communication was held at Nanaimo. B.C. on the 21st June, 1884, at 10 o'clock a.m.

At this Session reference was made to the Special Communication of Grand Lodge held at Victoria on the 28th July, 1883, in response to a request of the Secretary of the British Columbia Protestant Orphans' Home, to lay the foundation stone of a new building to be erected for the Orphans' Home in Victoria. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Edgar Crow Baker, duly laid the stone in Ample Form. The Freemasons of the City of Victoria donated in a purse the sum of \$250.00, which with the amount placed on the stone by the Brethren taking part in the ceremony, amounted to \$372.40.

The Grand Master, in his Annual Address, gave reasons for not installing the Worshipful Master of Victoria-Columbia No. 1, and Vancouver-Quadra No. 2, principally because he held it to be the inherent right of the retiring Master to install his successor, and also that it would be impossible for the Grand Master to install the Master of all the Lodges, and therefore he wished to avoid distinctions being made in this regard. From the records it is clear that this Grand Lodge was applied to for information, Form of Petition for a Charter, Copy of Constitution, Proceedings of our last Communication of Grand Lodge, and a Copy of Bye-Laws of one of our Lodges, by Brother U. J. Lindsay, of Calgary, N.W.T., but after considering the question, and owing to being nearer by 841 miles to Winnipeg by railway, the Calgary Brethren decided to place themselves under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, although on account of the indefiniteness of the boundary line there then existed some doubt as to whether Calgary was in Alberta Territory or British Columbia.

The Grand Master very opportunely referred to the fact that this Grand Lodge was still wearing the regalia of a Provincial Grand Lodge, and suggested that a Committee of Ways and Means be appointed to find the necessary funds with which to procure the Clothing and Jewels appropriate to an Independent Grand Lodge. A reference which would be appropriate and equally applicable now, Anno Lucis 5921, and while we may allow that our Ancient Brethren did excellent work, and agree with those memorable lines of Brother Rudyard Kipling, who sang:

“They hadn’t much regalia,
 Their Lodge was old and bare;
 But they knew the ancient landmarks
 And they kept them to a hair.”

Yet I cannot refrain from suggesting that this Grand Lodge should forthwith procure clothing and regalia in keeping with its dignity and propriety.

Most Worshipful Brother E. Crow Baker was re-elected Grand Master.

The Fourteenth Annual Communication was held at Victoria on the 20th, 21st (Divine Service), and 22nd June, 1885.

Most Worshipful Brother E. Crow Baker, Grand Master, was detained at Ottawa through the unexpected prolongation of the Federal Parliament, and Right Worshipful Brother Thomas Trounce, Deputy Grand Master, presided.

Under authorization of the Grand Master, Brother John Buie, Worshipful Master of Union Lodge No. 9, laid the corner stone of an Episcopal Church in Surrey. This Grand Lodge by resolution started the Black List, the significance and utility of which are well known to you.

Most Worshipful Brother Thomas Trounce was elected Grand Master.

The Fifteenth Annual Communication was held at Victoria on 19th and 21st June, 1886.

The Grand Master, in his address, recommended that Kamloops Lodge, at Kamloops, B.C., having been working under dispensation since January, be granted a Warrant of Constitution; and be designated and consecrated at an early date, as Kamloops Lodge No. 10, reviving the number formerly used by the short-lived Lodge at Yale.

Most Worshipful Brother William Dalby was elected Grand Master.

The Sixteenth Annual Communication was held in the City of Nanaimo on the 18th, 19th (Divine Service interspersed with some business, notably the election of Officers) and 20th June, 1887.

During the year under review another Lodge under Dispensation was added to the roll, viz.: Mountain Lodge, at Donald, B.C., and at this Communication a Warrant of Constitution was granted as No. 11.

Very gratifying is it to note the growth of Freemasonry since last Grand Lodge, the numbers on the Register being 393, as against a total of 333 a year ago, or a gain of 60 members. It is not difficult to account for this marked increase, which is doubtless attributable to the advent of the "iron horse," through the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Coast to Coast. For the past four years the revision of the Constitution had given not a little bother to the Board of General Purposes, and it is satisfactory to note that "The Revised Constitution was adopted and ordered to be printed."

Most Worshipful Brother A. R. Milne was elected Grand Master.

The Seventeenth Annual Communication was held in New Westminster on the 23rd, 24th (Sunday Divine Service) and 25th June, 1888.

Since the last Grand Lodge, three Special Communications had been held, to wit: on August 27th, 1887, to lay the corner stone of the Masonic Temple for Union Lodge No. 9, New Westminster; on the

5th May, 1888; at the request of Ashlar Lodge No. 3, to unveil the monument to Brother Samuel Hudson, who lost his life while endeavouring to succour the victims of the explosion in the Vancouver Colliery; on June 23rd, 1888, to dedicate the new Temple erected by Union Lodge No. 9, New Westminster.

The Grand Master regretfully referred to the fact that notwithstanding the Committee had deliberated so long and had several extensions of time voted them, and moreover the Constitution had been printed as ordered, yet several unintentional errors and some omissions had crept in that might lead to complication. He therefore recommended that Grand Lodge cause the necessary corrections to be made without delay. The Grand Master deputed Very Worshipful Grand Chaplain, Brother Right Reverend A. W. Sillitoe to lay the corner stone of the Episcopal Church at Kamloops.

On May 11th, 1888, and June 20th, 1888, dispensations to meet were respectively issued to Cascade Lodge No. 12, Vancouver and Spallumcheen Lodge No. 13, Lansdowne. For some years past the successive Grand Masters had deputed certain eminent Brethren to visit the Constituent Lodges and report to him thereon, and at this Grand Lodge it was resolved "That this Jurisdiction be divided into four-Districts, to be known and designated as:

- No. 1 District Vancouver Island
- No. 2 District New Westminster
- No. 3 District Yale-Kootenay
- No. 4 District Cariboo

and that power and authority be given the Most Worshipful the Grand Master to make such appointments from Grand Lodge as may be necessary to the carrying out of this resolution."

Most Worshipful Brother A. R. Milne was re-elected Grand Master.

The Eighteenth Annual Communication was held at Victoria on 22nd, 23rd (Divine Service) and 24th June, 1889. A Special Communication was held at Vancouver at which the Hall of Mount Hermon No. 7 and Cascade No. 12 was dedicated to Freemasonry, and to witness the exemplification of the work of the E. A., F.C., and M.M. Degrees as practised by the various Lodges in the Jurisdiction. The first District Deputy Grand Masters were appointed by the Grand Master on October 11th, 1888, as follows:

- Right Wor. Bro. D. H. Ross No. 1 District
- Wor. " Oppenheimer " 2 "
- " " Sibree Clarke " 3 "
- " " H. McDermott " 4 "

all of whom reported to Grand Lodge excepting the D.D.G.M. of No. 1 District.

The subject of new regalia for Grand Lodge, with estimates from England and Toronto, was again deliberated on, and decision thereon deferred for one year.

Most Worshipful Brother J. S. Clute was elected Grand Master.

The Nineteenth Annual Communication was held at Vancouver on the 19th, 20th and 21st June, 1890. At the last Communication another District, to be known as No. 5 District, Nanaimo, was added, and Right Worshipful Brother A. Haslam appointed D.D.G.M. thereof, although the Grand Lodge Minutes were silent as to the formation of this new District.

Additions of Sections 178 to 183 inclusive, of the Constitution, were made at this Communication.

Most Worshipful Brother A. McKeown was elected Grand Master.

The Twentieth Annual Communication was held at Kamloops on the 18th and 19th June, 1891.

A Special Communication was held at Vancouver on July 24th, 1890, to lay the corner stone of the Young Men's Christian Association, Most Worshipful Brother A. McKeown, Grand Master, officiating; and a Special Communication was held at Vancouver on April 30th, 1891, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of Alexandra Hospital for Women and Children in that City, Right Worshipful Brother William Downie officiating as Grand Master.

Three Dispensations to form new Lodges were issued during the year, viz. :

- “Hiram” Lodge, to meet at Comox ;
- “Kootenay” Lodge, to meet at Revelstoke, and
- “Pacific” Lodge, to meet at Mission City;

and received the numbers 14, 15, and 16 respectively on the Roll of this Grand Lodge.

The matter of new Regalia, estimated to cost \$679.56, was duly reported on, as having been ordered from England.

Most Worshipful Brother Marcus Wolf was elected Grand Master.

The Twenty-first Annual Communication was held at Nanaimo on 23rd and 24th June, 1892.

Since last Grand Lodge two Special Communications had been held, the first Special Communication on 22nd June, 1891, at Nanaimo, to lay the corner stone of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, and the second Special Communication at Comox, B.C., on 23rd and 24th July, 1891, on the former date for the purpose of dedicating the Hall erected by the members of Hiram Lodge No. 14, and on the latter date to lay the corner-stone of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in that town.

Charters of Constitution were reported duly issued to Hiram Lodge No. 14, Kootenay Lodge No. 15, and Pacific Lodge No. 16.

For the first time Masonic Clothing was supplied to the District Deputy Grand Masters, who were enjoined to hand the same to their successors in Office.

This being the Twenty-First Annual Communication, Grand Lodge may be said to have attained its majority, and it is interesting to note that the eight Lodges, with 295 members at its inauguration had grown into fifteen Lodges, with a membership of 860.

During the year the Grand Master had issued a Dispensation to King Solomon Lodge, New Westminster, and Grand Lodge at this Communication resolved "That a Warrant of Constitution be granted to King Solomon Lodge No. 17."

The request of Ainsworth Lodge, West Kootenay District, for a Warrant, was referred to the Most Worshipful Grand Master to grant a Dispensation at his discretion.

Most Worshipful Brother William Downie was elected Grand Master.

The Twenty-second Annual Communication was held at Victoria on 22nd, 23rd and 24th June, 1893.

A Special Communication was held at Vancouver on November 26th, 1892, to lay with Masonic Honours the corner stone of the First Presbyterian Church, and another Special Communication at New Westminster on December 27th, 1892, to dedicate the Masonic Temple erected by the Brethren in that city.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master reported having issued Dispensations to Doric Lodge at Nanaimo, Ionic Lodge at Chilliwack, and Miriam Lodge at Vernon, these Lodges at a later period of this Communication being duly granted Warrants, with the numbers respectively of 18, 19 and 20.

The Grand Master refused Dispensations to new Lodges to be formed in Nelson, Ainsworth, Wellington, and one in Vancouver to be known as Acacia.

Grand Lodge commended the action of the Grand Master, and after some deliberation a petition, which was ordered to be brought before Grand Lodge by Most Worshipful Brother William Dowie and after further consideration, it was resolved to grant Dispensations to St. John's Lodge at Wellington, and to Acacia Lodge at Mount Pleasant, a suburb of Vancouver.

Grand Lodge during this Session laid the corner stone of the Protestant Orphans' Home.

The matter of uniformity of Ritual had from time to time given Grand Lodge much thought, and the Committee appointed to report thereon recommended that no change be made in the Work as now practised by existing Lodges, but that all Lodges hereafter to be inaugurated be required to select either:

The "English" Working, as exemplified by Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1.

The "Scottish" Working, as exemplified by Ashlar Lodge No. 3.

The "Canadian" Working, as exemplified by Cascade Lodge No. 12.

Most Worshipful Brother Sibree Clarke was elected Grand Master.

The Twenty-third Annual Communication was held at New Westminster on the 21st and 22nd June, 1894.

The records include a short account of a Special Communication held at Nanaimo on the 18th July, 1893, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in that city.

The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Sibree Clarke, and Most Worshipful Brother William Downie, sent regrets for their enforced absence in consequence of the interruption of railway traffic as the result of the disastrous floods in certain parts of the Province.

Dispensations were issued during the past year to form new Lodges at Nelson and Esquimalt.

Grand Lodge by resolution granted Warrants to:

St. John's Lodge No. 21, at Wellington.

Acacia Lodge No. 22, at Mount Pleasant.

Nelson Lodge No. 23, at Nelson.

United Service Lodge No. 24, at Esquimalt.

The total membership had now reached 1,076—a gain of 108 during the year. A delegation from the Sister Grand Lodge of Manitoba, headed by Right Worshipful Brother H. W. Bain, Junior Grand Warden, was admitted, and received with Grand Honours.

Most Worshipful Brother Robert Burns McMicking was elected Grand Master.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Communication was held at Victoria on 20th, 21st and 22nd June, 1895. A Special Communication was held at Vancouver on 28th July, 1894, to perform the ceremony of laying the corner stone of Christ Church ; and at Victoria on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of November, 1894, another Special Communication was held, the business being the consideration and adoption of a revised Constitution, which the Most Worshipful Grand Master opined would meet the requirements of Grand Lodge for a number of years.

A Dispensation was issued to Kalso Lodge on August 22nd, 1894, and Grand Lodge in answer to the petition resolved that a Warrant be now granted as Kaslo Lodge No. 25.

Again Grand Lodge is asked to consider proposed alterations to the Constitutions.

Most Worshipful Brother Lacey R. Johnson was elected Grand Master.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Communication was held at Nanaimo on the 18th and 19th June, 1896.

A Special Communication was held at Chilliwack on 28th November, 1895, to consecrate the new Hall of Ionic Lodge No. 19 ; and another Special Communication at Wellington for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the Methodist Church in that town.

Cumberland Lodge at Union, and Corinthian Lodge at Rossland, had been granted Dispensations, and at this Communication Warrants were ordered to be issued to those Lodges, as Cumberland Lodge No. 26, and Corinthian Lodge No. 27.

Most Worshipful Brother Lacey R. Johnson, Grand Master, in his address, made special reference to the fact that this was the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the formation of this Sovereign Grand Lodge. Although the Deputy Grand Master, in his address, refers to the dullness in matters Masonic, and the hard times that prevailed during the year, yet an appreciable increase generally of 60 members, was recordable. The question of founding a Masonic Home for Widows and Orphans of members of the Craft had for some time received much consideration at the hands of Grand Lodge, and the Committee presented their report thereon, to the effect "That in their opinion such a building and its upkeep would require a much larger sum than Grand Lodge had at its disposal, or would have, for such a purpose, for a long time to come, and therefore the Committee did not feel warranted in recommending that such Home, even in rented quarters, should be opened until Grand Lodge could clearly see its way to maintain the Home in a creditable manner."

Another Masonic District to be known as District No. 6 was created, to comprise 'All that part of Yale and Kootenay Districts South of the 50th parallel,' and Clothing for the District Deputy Grand Master was ordered to be purchased.

The first Past Masters' Diplomas, numbered 1 to 11, were issued during the year.

Most Worshipful Brother Alex. Charleson was elected Grand Master.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Communication was held at Victoria on the 17th and 18th June, 1897.

An Address of congratulation to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, on the occasion of the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, was drafted, and a Summary ordered to be cabled to the Right Hon. Secretary of State, to be presented to Her Majesty.

Most Worshipful Brother Rev. E. D. McLaren was elected Grand Master.

The Twenty-seventh Annual Communication was held at New Westminster on 23rd and 24th June, 1898.

A Special Communication had been held during the past year, to wit: on the 22nd June, 1898, at Vancouver, for the purpose of dedicating with appropriate ceremonies the new Masonic Temple. In the evening Grand Lodge and many visitors were entertained at a *Conversazione*, at which it is recorded there were 500 present.

During the year the Grand Master visited 18 out of the 27 Lodges, and emphasizes the abounding kindness he everywhere experienced.

Most Worshipful Brother David Wilson was elected Grand Master.

The Twenty-eighth Annual Communication was held at Kamloops on the 23rd and 24th June, 1899.

A Special Communication was held at Nelson on Friday, 12th August, 1898, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of St. Saviour's Episcopal Church ; and a Special Communication was held at New Westminster on the 31st March, 1899, to lay with Masonic honours, and according to Masonic Custom the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple.

The Grand Master, during the year, had issued Dispensations for the formation of new Lodges to Greenwood Lodge at Greenwood, West Kootenay; Alta Lodge, Sandon, West Kootenay; and North Star Lodge at Fort Steele, East Kootenay, and at this Communication these three Lodges were granted Warrants, and were numbered 28, 29 and 30 respectively.

The total Brethren of all Lodges on the Roll was 1,639.

Most Worshipful Brother R. Eden Walker was elected Grand Master.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Communication was held at Vancouver on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd June, 1900.

A Special Communication was held on the 20th June, 1900, at New Westminster, to dedicate and consecrate the new Temple in that City.

The Grand Master feelingly referred to the war raging in South Africa.

Four Dispensations to form new Lodges were granted, to Ymir Lodge at Ymir; Fidelity Lodge at Trail ; Temple Lodge at Duncan ;

and Cranbrook Lodge at Cranbrook. Warrants being granted at this Communication to those Lodges, to bear numbers 31, 32, 33, and 34 respectively.

Grand Lodge was visited at this Session by Most Worshipful Brother John Corson Smith, Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois. The distinguished Brother was accorded Grand Honours, and took his seat in Grand Lodge, and afterwards gave a most interesting account of Masonry as practised in Egypt and other Oriental countries. Districts No. 7 and No. 8 were created, being really the subdivision of No. 6 into three Districts.

Most Worshipful Brother Harry H. Watson was elected Grand Master.

The Thirtieth Annual Communication was held at Nelson on the 20th and 21st June, 1901.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master, in his address, read the message of sympathy sent on the occasion of the death of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, and the reply thereto sent by His Majesty King Edward VII through the Very Worshipful Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England.

Dispensation was granted to form a new Lodge, to be known as Elk River Lodge, at Fernie, in East Kootenay, and although there would appear to be no resolution to that effect, the Warrant was granted at this Communication, and the Lodge numbered 35.

Grand Lodge duly considered the petition of the Brethren at Phoenix, and granted them a Dispensation to form a new Lodge, to be named King Edward Lodge.

At this Communication the Office of Grand Historian of this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge was created, the Constitution was amended accordingly, and Right Worshipful Brother Doctor W. A. De Wolf Smith was appointed.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master reported having visited all the Lodges in the Jurisdiction, save four Lodges, to do which he had to travel nearly 4,000 miles. Grand Lodge ordered a message of congratulation be sent to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on his being elected Grand Master of England in succession to King Edward VII.

Most Worshipful Brother Fred McB. Young was elected Grand Master.

The Thirty-first Annual Communication was held at Victoria on the 19th and 20th June, 1902.

During the year three Special Communications were held, the first at Victoria on October 3rd, 1901, for the purpose of laying the corner

stone of the Victoria High School, the second at Vancouver on March 29th, 1902, when the corner stone of the New Carnegie Public Library was "well and truly laid" ; and the third in the new Masonic Temple, New Westminster, on the 4th April, 1902, for the purpose of attending the funeral of the late Right Worshipful Brother Peter Grant, Past Senior Grand Warden. Application to open a Lodge of Instruction at Grand Forks, and for Dispensations for new Lodges at Mother Lode and Windermere were refused by the Grand Master.

A Dispensation had been issued by the Grand Master to form King Edward Lodge at Phoenix, and as this Lodge had to be disciplined for irregularities, Grand Lodge decided that the work of the Lodge be continued under dispensation for another year.

Most Worshipful Brother E. E. Chipman was elected Grand Master.

The Thirty-Second Annual Communication was held at Vancouver on the 18th and 19th June, 1903.

A Special Communication for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the new Carnegie Public Library in that City was held at New Westminster on the 1st October, 1902.

Dispensations were granted by the Grand Master during the year to Harmony Lodge at Grand Forks, to Columbia Lodge at Windermere, to Tuscan Lodge at Trout Lake City, and subsequently Grand Lodge resolved to grant Warrants to King Edward Lodge No. 36 at Phoenix, Harmony Lodge No. 37 at Grand Forks, and to Columbia Lodge No. 38 at Windermere, and to continue Tuscan Lodge at Trout Lake under dispensation for another year.

Again the Constitution was subjected to many amendments, which were finally adopted. Most Worshipful Brother C. Ensor Sharp was elected Grand Master.

The Thirty-third Annual Communication was held at Rossland on 23rd and 24th June, 1904.

A Special Communication was held at Victoria on 20th January, 1904, to attend the funeral of Most Worshipful Brother A. R. Milne, C.M.G., Past Grand Master, and another Special Communication was held at Vancouver on 23rd May, 1904, to attend the funeral of Brother Edward Hosker, Grand Tyler.

A Warrant was granted Tuscan Lodge No. 3 at Trout Lake.

Most Worshipful Brother W. J. Bowser was elected Grand Master.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Communication was held at New Westminster on 22nd and 23rd June, 1905.

No Special Communications were held during the past year.

Dispensations were issued by the Grand Master to Atlinto Lodge, at Atlin, to Enderby Lodge at Enderby, and to St. George's Lodge at Kelowna, and subsequently Warrants were granted to Enderby Lodge as No. 40, and to St. George's Lodge as No. 41, but Atlinto Lodge was ordered to continue under Dispensation for another year.

The Committee on the Grand Master's address specially complimented Most Worshipful Brother W. J. Bowser, Grand Master, for his admirable address, and on the very commendable interest he had manifested in visiting 35 out of the 36 existing Lodges in this Jurisdiction, necessitating an itinerary aggregating 4,400 miles. It is not unreasonable to suppose that this excellent record of such a complete itinerary may not be surpassed, if indeed it will ever be equalled.

Most Worshipful Brother T. J. Armstrong was elected Grand Master.

The Thirty-fifth Annual Communication was held at Victoria on 21st and 22nd June, 1906.

A Special Communication was held at Duncan on the 26th August, 1905, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of St. John's Anglican Church in that city.

The Grand Master granted a Dispensation to Hedley Lodge at Hedley, and to Southern Cross Lodge at Vancouver.

Warrants were granted to Atlinto Lodge No. 42, and Hedley Lodge No. 43, and Southern Cross Lodge was ordered to continue under Dispensation until the next Regular Communication of Grand Lodge.

A re-arrangement of Districts was instituted, and District No. 9 added, embracing Lodges Nos. 13, 20, 40, 41 and 43.

At this Communication the newly formed Grand Lodge of Alberta petitioned for recognition by this Grand Lodge, and on the recommendation of the Special Committee it was resolved "That this Grand Lodge do recognize the Grand Lodge of Alberta as a Sovereign Grand Lodge within its own jurisdiction, and do accord the said Grand Lodge all the rights and privileges extended to our Sister Grand Lodges."

Most Worshipful Brother James H. Scholfield was elected Grand Master.

The Thirty-sixth Annual Communication was held at Vancouver on 20th and 21st June 1907. Dispensation was granted during the year to Arrow Lodge at Arrowhead, and at this Communication it was decided to continue the Lodge under Dispensation until the next Annual Communication.

To Southern Cross Lodge it was resolved to grant a Warrant, the Lodge to be numbered 44.

After having received a favourable report of the Committee on Constitution appointed to consider the Petitions of Yukon Lodge No. 79 at Dawson, and White Horse Lodge No. 81 at White Horse, Yukon Territory, requesting this Grand Lodge to issue Warrants in their favour, the Special Committee on Petitions further reported and recommended "That this Grand Lodge issue Charters, dated 26th June, 1907, to the two Lodges in question, to be designated as Yukon Lodge No. 45, and White Horse Lodge No. 46, and these two Lodges to be placed in a new District, to be known as No. 10.

Most Worshipful Brother Francis Bowser was elected Grand Master.

The Thirty-seventh Annual Communication was held at Victoria on the 18th and 19th June, 1908.

A Special Communication was held at The Masonic Temple, Victoria, on the 23rd September, 1907, for the purpose of attending the funeral of the late Most Worshipful Brother Eli Harrison, Senior, Past Grand Master.

During the year under review, Dispensations were granted to Western Gate Lodge at Vancouver, to St. Andrew's Lodge at Victoria, to Burrard Lodge at North Vancouver, and Okanagan Lodge at Penticton, and at this Annual Communication it was resolved to grant Warrants, with numbers, as follows: Arrow Lodge No. 47; Western Gate Lodge No. 48; St. Andrew's Lodge No. 49; and Burrard Lodge No. 50.

It was decided to continue the Dispensation to Okanagan Lodge, U.D., until the next Regular Communication of Grand Lodge.

It was resolved to give due recognition to the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan, and that the Most Worshipful Grand Master attend to the exchange of representatives.

Most Worshipful Brother William K. Houston was elected Grand Master.

The Thirty-eighth Annual Communication was held at Vancouver on the 17th and 18th June, 1909.

Three Special Communications were held since the last Annual Grand Lodge Communication. First, on 16th July, 1908, at New Westminster, to attend the funeral of the late Right Worshipful Brother Robert Brenton Kelly, Past Senior Grand Warden. Second, on 7th September, 1908, at Nelson, B.C., to lay the corner stone of the new Public School Building, and the third on the 10th May, 1909, at Fernie, for the purpose of dedicating the new Masonic Hall in that place.

Dispensations to form new Lodges were issued as follows: Salmon Arm Lodge, at Salmon Arm; Nicola Lodge at Nicola; Selkirk Lodge at Moyie; Summerland Lodge at Summerland; Lewis Lodge at New Westminster; Similkameen Lodge at Princeton; and Creston Lodge at

Creston, Warrants being granted to Lodges as follows : Orion Lodge No. 51 (at Penticton); Salmon Arm No. 52; Nicola Lodge No. 53 ; Creston Lodge No. 54 ; Selkirk Lodge No. 55 ; and Summerland Lodge No. 56.

Most Worshipful Brother Harry N. Rich was elected Grand Master.

The Thirty-ninth Annual Communication was held at Cranbrook on the 23rd June, 1910.

During the past year Special Communications were held as follow :

At Cranbrook on the 25th October, 1909, to lay the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple at that place.

At Victoria, on the 14th December, 1909, to celebrate the dedication of the Hall, and also of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Freemasonry into this Province.

At Vancouver on the 15th March, 1910, to dedicate the new Masonic Temple, situate at the corner of Seymour and Georgia Streets in that city, Most Worshipful Brother Harry N. Rich. Grand Master, being presented at the door by the Architect with a "beautiful golden key."

At Cranbrook on the 22nd June, 1910, to dedicate the new Masonic Temple at that place.

A Dispensation was issued to form a new Lodge to be known as Kilwinning Lodge at Vancouver ; and to Tsimpsean Lodge at Prince Rupert, and in the later Proceedings of Grand Lodge the following Lodges were granted Warrants : Lewis Lodge No. 57, and Tsimpsean Lodge No. 58, Kilwinning Lodge continuing under Dispensation.

The Report of the Committee on Constitution was received and referred to a Special Communication of Grand Lodge. The Grand Master, in his address, feelingly referred to the death of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, and in reply to the Grand Master's cable of regrets to the Grand Lodge of England, the letter of the Grand Secretary of England was read, and ordered filed.

Most Worshipful Brother Edward B. Paul was elected Grand Master.

The Fortieth Annual Communication was held at Victoria on the 22nd and 23rd days of June, 1911.

There were two Special Communications held since last Grand Lodge, one at Vancouver on the 5th day of October, 1910, for the purpose of considering and adopting the report of the Committee on Constitution, and the other at Duncan on the 22nd day of October, 1910, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the new Convalescent Home and Emergency Hospital at that place.

Kilwinning Lodge U. D. was granted a Warrant, and numbered 59 on the Register of this Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge resolved "That the historical address delivered by the Grand Historian on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Freemasonry into the Province, be printed in this year's Proceedings."

On the afternoon of the 23rd June the Grand Master, assisted by his Officers, laid with appropriate ceremony the corner stone of St. Mary's Church at Oak Bay.

It is noteworthy that the total membership in this Jurisdiction has passed the five thousand mark, the exact figures being 5,017, or an increase of 10 per cent during the year.

Most Worshipful Brother Paul, in his address, which was one of marked excellence, referred, *inter alia*, to the enforced retirement, through pressure of his private business, of Very Worshipful Brother R. E. Brett, who with consummate tact and kindness had so ably filled the Office of Grand Secretary for the past nine years.

Most Worshipful Brother Francis J. Burd was elected Grand Master, and we cannot omit to add Very Worshipful Brother Dr. W. A. DeWolf Smith was elected Grand Secretary.

The Forty-first Annual Communication was held at Vancouver on the 20th and 21st June, 1912.

Eleven Special Communications were held since last Annual Communication as follows :

1. At Vancouver on 13th July, 1911, to constitute Kilwinning Lodge No. 59.

2. At New Westminster on 6th October, 1911, to lay corner stone of new Freemasons' Hall.

3. At Alberni on 19th October, 1911, to institute Arrowsmith Lodge.

4. At Alberni, on 20th October, 1911, to lay corner stone of new Presbyterian Church.

5. At Trail on 30th October, 1911, to lay corner stone of new Public School Building.

6. At Central Park on 13th November, 1911, to institute Park Lodge, and to dedicate the Hall to Ancient Masonic usage.

7. At North Vancouver on 28th November, 1911 to institute Duke of Connaught Lodge, and to dedicate the Masonic Temple.

8. At Vancouver on 5th February, 1912, to attend the funeral of our Grand Chaplain, the late Very Worshipful Brother the Rev. H. G. Fiennes-Clinton.

9. At Revelstoke on 2nd May, 1912, to lay corner stone of new Court House.

10. At Abbotsford on 18th May, 1912, to lay corner stone of new Masonic Temple.

Dispensations to form a new Lodge during the year, had been granted to Camosun Lodge at Victoria; to Star of the West Lodge at Nakusp ; to Arrowsmith Lodge at Alberni ; to Park Lodge at Central Park ; to Duke of Connaught Lodge at North Vancouver ; to Plantagenet Lodge at Vancouver; to Tye Lodge at Prince Rupert; to Melrose Lodge at Vancouver; and to Vancouver Lodge at Vancouver, and at this Communication the said Lodges were Warranted and numbered as follows: Camosun Lodge No. 60 ; Star of the West Lodge No. 61 ; Arrowsmith Lodge No. 62 ; Park Lodge No. 63 ; Duke of Connaught Lodge No. 64 ; Plantagenet Lodge No. 65 ; Tye Lodge No. 66, and Melrose Lodge and Vancouver Lodge were continued under Dispensation.

The Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence of the Draft Code in printed proof form was recorded, and Grand Lodge resolved "That the Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence be adopted, and that the Draft Code prepared by Right Worshipful Brother Eli Harrison be approved ; and that he be requested to edit, arrange and annotate the Constitution, Bye-Laws, Regulations and other Laws of the Grand Lodge as codified."

The Grand Master recorded his regret at being unable to visit Tsimpsean, Tye, White Horse, and Yukon Lodges.

In response to the Grand Master's suggestion to confer Past Rank on District Deputy Grand Masters the Special Committee on the Grand Master's address reported thereon that in their opinion it was not expedient. Grand Lodge elected Brothers Robert Freke Gould, of Woking, England, and W. J . Chetwode Crawley, Dublin, Ireland, honorary members of this Grand Lodge, bestowing on each of them the rank of Past Grand Warden, as a token of esteem and recognition of the labours of these Brethren as Masonic Historians of the foremost eminence and merit.

Grand Lodge welcomed the following distinguished Brethren to this Communication, viz.:

Most Worshipful Brother Frank McCandless, Grand Master of
Washington.

Most Worshipful Brother Royal A. Grove, Past Grand Master of
Washington.

Right Worshipful Brother H. W. Tyler, Grand Secretary of
Washington.

A large increase of members has to be recorded, 769 being added during the year, making a total of 5,776 members.

Most Worshipful Brother John M. Rudd was elected Grand Master.

The Forty-second Annual Communication was held at New Westminster on the 19th and 20th June, 1913.

Eight Special Communications were held since the last Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, as follows:

At North Vancouver on 2nd July, 1912, to constitute Duke of Connaught Lodge No. 64.

At Vancouver on 10th July, 1912, to constitute Plantagenet Lodge No. 65.

At Central Park on 11th July, 1912, to constitute Park Lodge No. 63.

At Victoria on 15th July, 1912, to constitute Camosun Lodge No. 60.

At Nakusp on 31st July, 1912, to constitute Star of the West Lodge No. 61.

At Prince Rupert on 31st July, 1912, to constitute Tyee Lodge No. 66.

At Alberni on 7th August, 1912, to constitute Arrowsmith Lodge No. 62.

At Duncan on 26th October, 1912, to dedicate the new Masonic Temple.

Dispensations to form a new Lodge were issued to Quesnel Lodge at Quesnel ; Abbotsford Lodge, at Abbotsford; Slocan Lodge, at New Denver; and Mount Lebanon Lodge, at Eburne, and subsequently Warrants were granted to Melrose Lodge No. 67 ; Vancouver Lodge No. 68; Quesnel Lodge No. 69 ; Abbotsford Lodge No. 70, and Slocan Lodge No. 71. Mount Lebanon Lodge was continued under Dispensation.

Grand Lodge decided to create a new District to include Tsimpsean Lodge No. 58, and Tyee Lodge No. 66, to be known as District No. 11. and resolved that District No. 2A be re-numbered as No. 12.

The Committee on the Grand Master's Address, and Grand Lodge generally, highly complimented Most Worshipful Brother Rudd on the great accomplishment of visiting 61 of the 63 Lodges in the Jurisdiction.

The Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful Brother Arthur H. Skey was elected Grand Master, but stated that the claims of his business would preclude him giving the attention to the duties which such a very important position demanded and he was therefore obliged to decline the office, after which Most Worshipful Brother William Henderson was elected Grand Master.

The Forty-third Annual Communication was held at Prince Rupert on the 18th and 19th June, 1914.

Since last Annual Communication eight Special Communications were held, as follows:

At Vancouver on 11th July, 1913, to constitute Melrose Lodge No. 67.

At Abbotsford on the 12th July, 1913, to constitute Abbotsford Lodge No. 70.

At Vancouver on the 18th July, 1913, to constitute Vancouver Lodge No. 68.

At New Denver on the 14th August, 1913, to constitute Slocan Lodge No. 71.

At Quesnel on the 22nd September, 1913, to constitute Quesnel Lodge No. 69.

At Victoria on the 15th January, 1914, to install Officers of Camosun Lodge No. 60.

At Alberni on the 8th May, 1914, to dedicate the Hall of Arrowsmith Lodge No. 62.

At Victoria on the 13th June, 1914, to lay the corner stone of St. Columba Presbyterian Church at Oak Bay.

Dispensations for the formation of new Lodges during the year were issued; also at this Communication Warrants were granted to Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 72 ; Britannia Lodge No. 73 ; Maple Leaf Lodge No. 74 ; Perfection Lodge No. 75 ; Composite Lodge No. 76; and Zion Lodge No. 77, while Trepanier Lodge U.D. at Peachland was continued under Dispensation until the next Annual Communication.

The Vancouver Masonic Board of Relief reported on the attempt of certain Clandestines to establish themselves in this Jurisdiction, explaining the action taken to repress their incursions, resulting in the conviction of John Gateman, notwithstanding the evidence and pleading of the chief organizer, Matthew McBlain Thompson. Gateman was found guilty by His Honour Judge McInnes, and a fine of \$200 or in default of immediate payment three months' imprisonment was imposed. One Thomas Houston was found not guilty of the charge of conspiring with the others to defraud in soliciting subscriptions to the organization known as the "American Masonic Federation." Grand Lodge ordered the costs of the action, amounting to \$329.80, to be refunded to the Vancouver Board of Relief. And in this connection we might well be charged with remissness were we to neglect to recall and again to record our full appreciation of the excellent services rendered in this case, and *ipso facto* in the cause of Freemasonry generally by Most Worshipful Brother F. J. Burd and the late Worshipful Brother M. J. Barr. Most Worshipful Brother James Stark was elected Grand Master.

The Forty-fourth Annual Communication was held at Victoria on the 17th and 18th June, 1915. Special Communications were held since last Annual Communication, as follow:

At Eburne on 25th June, 1914, to constitute Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 72.

At Vancouver on 3rd July, 1914, to install the Worshipful Master of Melrose Lodge No. 67.

At South Vancouver on 6th July, 1914, to constitute Maple Leaf Lodge No. 74.

At South Vancouver on 7th July, 1914, to constitute Composite Lodge No. 76.

At New Westminster on 16th July, 1914, to constitute Perfection Lodge No. 75.

At Victoria on 17th July, 1914, to constitute Britannia Lodge No. 73.

At Kerrisdale on 20th July, 1914, to constitute Zion Lodge No. 77.

At Central Park on 14th September, 1914, to dedicate the Hall of Park Lodge No. 63.

At Kerrisdale on 5th October, 1914, to dedicate the Hall of Zion Lodge No. 77.

At Victoria on 7th January, 1915, to install the Worshipful Master of Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1.

At Victoria on 1st March, 1915, to attend the funeral of our late Most Worshipful Brother Israel Wood Powell.

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren:

Let us here digress to refer again to the noble work of that distinguished Freemason, Most Worshipful Brother Israel Wood Powell, First Grand Master of this Grand Lodge, who entered into Rest on 25th February, A.L. 5915.

His Masonic record and a beautiful eulogy by M.W. Bro. Edward B. Paul on the life of our departed Brother, are printed in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge A.L. 5915. And we who are privileged to meet at this Fiftieth Communication must be well aware of the part he took, and the great work he accomplished in laying the foundation of this Grand Lodge firmly and securely, that we would fain reiterate all that has been said and written, and if we added many times more we would not exhaust our sincere expressions of tribute to him, nor do I think we could find words adequately to express our gratefulness for the magnificent heritage that is ours, which has been perfected down

through the years, and which we are assured shall be formed in perpetuity and "Until time shall be no more," made possible by the excellence of the work of the Master hand, fifty years ago, aided not a little by his gracious lady and helpmeet, who we know, as far as she is able, participates in our rejoicings to-day, and whom it is our fervent prayer The Most High may succour and protect in the years to come.

During the year the following Dispensations were issued : To form St. James' Lodge at Vancouver, and Triune Lodge at Powell River, and Warrants were granted to DeWolf Lodge No. 78 ; Concord Lodge No. 79, and St. James' Lodge No. 80.

Trepanier Lodge U. D. was continued under Dispensation for another year.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master, in his address, makes special reference to the willing and valuable assistance rendered him by Most Worshipful Brother William Henderson, Past Grand Master, and Right Worshipful Brother W. C. Ditmars, D.G.M., the latter of whom acted as his direct representative in visiting the Lodges. The Grand Master was personally precluded visiting, owing to happening of unexpected and untoward circumstances.

Most Worshipful Brother W. C. Ditmars was elected Grand Master.

The Forty-fifth Annual Communication was held at Vancouver on the 22nd and 23rd days of June, 1916.

Since the last Annual Communication, Special Communications had been held as follows:

29th June, 1915, at Vancouver, to constitute St. James' Lodge No. 80.

5th July, 1915, at Parksville, to constitute Concord Lodge No. 79.

12th July, 1915, at Port Coquitlam, to constitute DeWolf Lodge No. 78.

During the year. to wit: on the 9th May, 1916, a Dispensation to form a new Lodge was granted to Prince Arthur Lodge at Vancouver.

Grand Lodge resolved to grant a Warrant to Triune Lodge No. 81.

In accordance with the report of the Committee on the Reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters it was resolved "That District No. 12 be divided into two Districts, to be known and constituted as follows:

District No. 12 to include Lodges Nos. 7, 22, 63, 67, 68, 72, 74, Triune and Prince Arthur.

District No. 13 to include Lodges Nos. 12, 44. 48. 50, 59, 64, 65, 76. 77 and 80".

and it was further resolved "That the Resolution on pp. 94 and 95 of Proceedings, 1914, be amended to read as follows :

"Provided that all Lodges in Districts Nos. 12 and 13 shall have concurrent jurisdiction except over that part of the District North of Burrard Inlet."

It may be noted that in this Communication Grand Lodge adopted the recommendation of the Committee on the Grand Master's Address that the Committee on the Reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters may recommend the granting of the rank of Right Worshipful D.D.G.M. when in their opinion the work done merits special recognition. The Grand Master's work in visiting such a large number of Lodges evoked the highest commendation from the Brethren.

Most Worshipful Brother William Astley was elected Grand Master.

The Forty-sixth Annual Communication was held at New Westminster on the 21st and 22nd June, 1917. Two Special Communications were held during the past year, *viz* :

At Powell River on 7th July, 1916, to constitute Triune Lodge No. 81.

At Nelson on the 21st October, 1916, to lay the corner stone of the new Kootenay Lake Hospital.

No Dispensations for new Lodges were issued during the past year. The Report of the Committee on Warranted Lodges and Lodges under Dispensation was adopted, and a Warrant granted Prince Arthur Lodge No. 82.

The Report of the Committee on the Grand Master's address was adopted, commending Most Worshipful Brother Astley on his zeal and diligence in visiting 63 Lodges, and recording with satisfaction his beneficent act in inaugurating the Grand Master's One Cent Fund.

Grand Lodge voted a Grant of \$1,000 to the Military Branch of the Y.M.C.A., and recommended the Constituent Lodges to respond as liberally as possible to any appeal in that behalf.

Most Worshipful Brother Douglas Corson was elected Grand Master. The Forty-Seventh Annual Communication was held at Victoria on the 20th and 21st June, 1918.

One Special Communication was held at the corner of Seventh Avenue and Granville Street, Vancouver, on the 10th July, 1917, for the purpose of constituting Prince Arthur Lodge No. 82.

Grand Lodge adopted the Report of the Committee on Constitution against the proposed amendments whereby, instead of the appointment of the Right Worshipful District Grand Masters being a prerogative of the Grand Master, it should be by election by ballot, by a Committee of each District comprising the immediate Masters and Wardens, or their proxies.

Most Worshipful Brother John Shaw was elected Grand Master.

The Forty-eighth Annual Communication was held at Vancouver on the 19th and 20th June, 1919.

A Special Communication was held at the Masonic Temple, Vancouver, on the 28th November, 1918, for the purpose of committing to the earth the body of our late Most Worshipful Brother James Stark, and

A Special Communication was held at the Masonic Temple, Vancouver, on the 16th and 17th January, 1919,

“To dispose of the case of -----Lodge No. ---”

The Grand Master reported that a Dispensation to form a new Lodge was issued to Henderson Lodge, in the Municipality of Oak Bay, and on the recommendation of the Committee on Warranted Lodges and Lodges under Dispensation, Grand Lodge resolved: That the Dispensation be continued until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and that the Lodges of Victoria and Oak Bay be given concurrent jurisdiction.

The Warrant to Arrowsmith Lodge No. 62 was revoked.

Trepanier Lodge U.D. was continued under Dispensation until the next Annual Communication.

Most Worshipful Brother Samuel J. Willis was elected Grand Master.

The Forty-ninth Annual Communication was held at Nelson on the 17th and 18th June, 1920.

No Special Communications were held during the past year.

The Grand Master issued Dispensations to form new Lodges as follows:

- To Empire Lodge at Vancouver ;
- “ Nechako Lodge at Prince George ;
- “ Progress Lodge at Vancouver ;
- “ Ancient Light Lodge at Ladner;
- “ Mount Newton Lodge at Saanich ;
- “ Barclay Lodge at Port Alberni ;
- “ University Lodge at Point Grey ;

and at this Annual Communication all were granted Warrants, and numbered respectively 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90 and 91.

Trepanier Lodge, which had been granted a Dispensation on 5th August, 1913, and Henderson Lodge, were Warranted as Trepanier Lodge No. 83, and Henderson Lodge No. 84.

Grand Lodge approved of the proposed amalgamation of King Edward Lodge No. 36 and Greenwood Lodge No. 28, under the designation of King Edward Lodge No. 28, to be located at Greenwood.

During the year the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother S. J. Willis, by circular, enjoined the Worshipful Masters of Lodges to be particularly careful on the admission of Visitors to their Lodges, this being necessary in consequence of the organisation of a clandestine Lodge in Vancouver. The most cordial commendation was given to M. Wor. Bro. Willis' devotion to the work of welcoming back from the Great War the Brethren whose valiant deeds and gallantry won them undying fame, and who, while they have thus clothed themselves in imperishable honour, have, moreover, inestimably honoured the Craft.

The total membership of Grand Lodge was 8,975, being an increase of 1,012 since last Annual Communication.

Most Worshipful Brother M. L. Grimmett was elected Grand Master.

And here, Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, I become *functus officio*. The time at our disposal only admitted any observations and criticisms to be of the briefest nature ; rather has it been my first and constant care to keep within certain prescribed limits, and to present to you as complete a chronological and genealogical chain of events as time and circumstances would permit. But in concluding this survey let us just for a moment reflectively direct our thoughts to the great past, and let us express our gratitude to the Most High for the great work wrought through those Brethren who are no longer with us, having been called to that Grand Lodge above; whether they have passed peacefully away in their homes, or have made the Supreme Sacrifice in the great cause of freedom on the battlefields of Europe, we must ever think of this ancient Fraternity as a great and invaluable heritage that has been left to us by them, and from the example set by those good works and those noble deeds of heroism and self-sacrifice, we should constantly bear in mind the great responsibility that is ours, and ever be stimulated to higher and nobler feelings, thoughts and deeds :

“ One generous feeling—one great thought—one deed
Of good, ere night, would make life longer seem
Than if each year might' number a thousand years—
Spent as is this by nations of mankind.
We live in deeds, not years ; in thoughts, not breaths:
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most—feels the noblest—acts the best.” *
“ May Unity, Peace and Plenty abound among
Freemasons until Time shall be no more.”

SO MOTE IT BE.

APPENDIX

LODGES.		MEMBERSHIP.			GRAND MASTER.	OBIT.	
Year	Warranted.	U.D.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Grand Master.	Obit.
1871	8	..	295	...	...	Israel Wood Powell	
1872	9	..	301	6	...	" " "	
1873	9	..	282	...	19	" " "	Feb. 25, 1915.
1874-5	8	..	275	...	7	Simeon Duck.....	1880 or 1881.
1876	8	..	300	25	...	F. Williams.....	
1877	8	..	312	12	...	" " "	Nov. 30, 1899.
1878	6	..	317	5	...	Eli Harrison, Senr	
1879	6	..	295	...	22	" " "	
1880	6	..	306	11	...	" " "	..... Sept. 19, 1907.
1881	6	..	287	...	19	Coote M. Chambers.....	1888 or 1889
1882	7	..	295	8	...	Henry Brown.....	Mar. 15, 1891
1883	6	..	293	...	2	E. Crowe Baker.....	
1884	6	..	301	8	...	" " "	..... Nov. 3, 1920.
1885	6	..	312	11	...	William Dalby.....	Jan. 22, 1916.
1886	6	1	333	21	...	T. Trounce.....	June 30, 1900.
1887	7	1	393	60	...	A. R. Milne.....	
1888	8	1	496	103	...	" " "	..... Jan.17, 1904.
1889	10	..	587	91	...	J. S. Clute.	
1890	10	..	678	91	...	A. McKeown.	
1891	10	..	726	48	...	Marcus Wolfe.....	Nov. 20, 1896.
1892	13	..	860	134	...	Wm. Downie.	
1893	14	..	968	108	...	Sibree Clarke.....	May 8, 1919.
1894	17	..	1076	108	...	R. B. McMicking.....	Nov. 27, 1915
1895	21	..	1269	193	...	Lacey R. Johnson.....	April, 1915.
1896	22	2	1272	3	...	Alex. Charleson.	
1897	24	..	1242	...	30	E. D. McLaren.	
1898	24	..	1339	98	...	D. Wilson.	
1899	24	3	1639	300	...	R. E. Walker.	
1900	27	4	1889	250	...	H. H. Watson.	
1901	31	1	1978	89	...	F. McB. Young.	
1902	35	1	2355	377	...	E. E. Chipman.....	April 21, 1917.
1903	32	4	2473	118	...	C. Ensor Sharp.	
1904	35	1	2624	151	...	W. J. Bowser.	
1905	36	3	2859	235	...	T. J. Armstrong.	
1906	38	3	3051	192	...	J. H. Schofield.	
1907	40	2	3258	207	...	F. Bowser.	
1908	43	5	3759	499	...	W.K. Houston.....	Nov. 19, 1916.
1909	47	8	4158	392	...	H. N. Rich.	
1910	53	3	4550	392	...	Edward B. Paul.	
1911	55	1	5917	467	...	Francis J. Burd.	
1912	63	2	5776	759	...	Jn. M. Rudd.	
1913	68	1	6344	568	...	Wm. Henderson.	
1914	68	9	7176	832	...	James Stark.....	Oct. 21, 1918.
1915	74	5	7678	202	...	W. C. Ditmars.	
1916	77	3	7797	119	...	Wm. Astley.	
1917	78	2	7683	...	114	D. Corsan.	
1918	79	1	7951	268	...	Jn. Shaw.	
1919	78	2	7963	12	...	S. J. Willis.	
1920	78	9	8975	1012	...	M. L. Grimmett.	
1921	86	7	10122	1147	...	W. S. Terry	

L. WATTS DONEY.

* Poem excerpted from *Festus* (1839) by Philip James Bailey (1816-1902).

2020/09/12

This facsimile was transcribed from *Proceedings of the M.W. Grand Lodge, Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia*, Victoria : The Thos. R. Cusack Presses, 1921, pp. 168-210 by the Grand Historian, original grammar and spelling retained.

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