

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF RATHBONE LODGE, No. 7, AND ITS C. C.'s FROM ITS INSTITUTION UP TO THE PRESENT DAY.

Nine years ago on the 21st day of May in the year 1890. All the charter members of Rathbone Lodge will remember with pleasure the events of that evening, when they entered the threshold of Pythianism. Many were the opinions of what the initiation would be like, as we stood in groups awaiting our turn. Rathbone, No. 7, was instituted by P.S.R. Bro. Behnson of Granville Lodge, No. 3, one of the most enthusiastic and devoted members of the Order that British Columbia can boast of, and one who is considered one of the best-informed members on Pythianism in the Domain.

But Rathbone, No. 7, owes its existence to our present Supreme Representative, Bro. H. J. Anstie, a former member of Winnipeg, Man. With the assistance of a few knights he obtained the names of those he thought would make true and loyal members. Bro. H. J. Anstie we may well call the father of Rathbone Lodge; always ready with his counsel and advice, never refusing to assist in anything pertaining to the welfare of lodge or Order, he has assisted the members out of many a complicated question. Bro. Anstie was Rathbone's first Chancellor-Commander, and has since then been elected Grand Chancellor, and is now Supreme Representative for this Domain, this being his second term in that position. He has filled nearly every office in his subordinate lodge, and for the last few years has held the office of M. of E. 'Tis seldom that you miss him from his lodge, as he is always present, unless it be Pythian duty that takes him away.

Rathbone Lodge entered upon its career with a good number of energetic and enthusiastic knights, the meetings being well attended, and more interesting lodge sessions would be hard to find. Many of the Charter members are with us to-day, but some have sought distant fields, a few have been suspended for non-payment of dues, some, we think, through carelessness and others through ill-will, and three have been called away to the Supreme Chancellor on High.

The Lodge has had many a hard struggle at various periods, both financially and otherwise, when it has been almost necessary to delve down into the individual pocket for funds to meet the various expenses, but she pulled through all right. One of our Charter members, a worthy and energetic brother, met with a very painful accident in the city of New Westminster, nearly causing him his life. He was at the time employed in a hardware store, and in trying to save some merchandise from the fire, was seriously burned. The lodge carried him safely through, paying him benefits in full many months exceeding the prescribed time, the Westminster brothers nursing him and giving him every attention; consequently Rathbone members have a tender spot for the Westminster brethren.

Bro. A. J. McAlister was our next C. C., and he usually carried the questions and made the boys toe the mark. "Sandy," he was usually called. He has gone to California, and is enjoying a more salubrious clime. The old ritual at this time was being used, and although not quite equal to the present one, all of the officers had most of their ritualistic work committed to memory, and hardly a meeting night passed without having a victim to practise upon.

Bro. Patterson was next elected to the chair. He conducted the lodge and carried out the by-laws as one accustomed to preside in a court of justice. It was about this period that Rathbone and Granville Lodges participated in the Dominion Day celebration. Bro. Simon bears the distinction of being the first Grand Lodge Representative from Rathbone Lodge. When it came to getting up an excursion or banquet, Ben sold more tickets than any two members put together.

Bro. W. D. Mearns was the next choice of the Lodge for C. C. Bro. Mearns joined the Lodge by card in December, 1890, and since that time has been a devoted and hard worker for the Lodge and Order. We think Bro. Mearns can claim the distinction of bringing more members into the Lodge than any other one individual. It would be impossible for a brother to attend Lodge without knowing whether Bro. Mearns

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