

THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS ROYALLY CELEBRATE THE ORDER'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Great Gathering of Over 600 Knights and Ladies, in York Theatre, Last Evening—Honors for John Beamish, Founder of Order in British Empire.

The celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Knights of Pythias in St. John was commenced in the York Theatre building last evening most auspiciously, there being over 600 Knights and ladies present. The scene was one of brilliancy and festivity, both the auditorium upstairs and the social suite downstairs being fully decked in the red, yellow and blue of the order and hung with draperies, paintings, emblematic designs and appropriate greetings. The govern were elaborate and throughout the evening there was not a dull moment and after 1 o'clock the morning the last of the large gathering took their coaches for home. The celebration continued today in the form of exemplified rank work and smoking concert to

plaudits of Knights present. Chairman Gantner presented Mr. Beamish with an ebony cane, gold headed. The cane was engraved with the Pythian shield and the following wording: "To John Beamish, Golden Jubilee, Pythian Order, 1914, from the Knights of St. John." Trembling with emotion, the veteran Sir Knight, who has occupied many prominent offices in various Canadian Pythian lodges, thanked his brethren for the signal honor done him and made some remarks of a very interesting character. Mr. Beamish was tendered another ovation upon taking his seat.



JOHN BEAMISH, Founder of Pythianism in the British Empire.

which only Knights will be admitted. Sharply at 8 o'clock last evening Chairman H. L. Gantner, Past Grand Chancellor of the Maritime Provinces, domain and prominent in local Pythianism, made some opening remarks of greeting from the platform of York Theatre to a fashionable audience, more in the nature of a gigantic house party than an auditorium gathering. Jones orchestra was present, and the past setting of the stage was very pretty indeed. The following high class program was carried out, each performer graciously responding to encore demands:

- Program.
- Selection by orchestra.
 - Solo, "My Dreams" (Tosti)..... D. P. Pidgeon
 - Solo, "The Cry of Rachel," (Mary Turner SALTER)..... Mrs. L. M. Curran
 - Violin, "Legende" (Wienlawski)..... Miss Olivia Murray
 - Solo, "Carmena," (H. Lane Wilson)..... Miss Blenda S. Thomson
 - Address..... Past Supreme Prelate James Moulson
 - Solo, "Who Knows," (Ernest R. Ball)..... A. C. Smith
 - Duet, "The Fisherman" (Gahan)..... Mrs. Curran, Miss Thomson
 - Solo, "The Bandleader," (Leslie Stuart)..... Fred T. McKean
 - Skeleton by orchestra.
 - Moving pictures.
 - God Save the King.
 - Accompanist..... Mrs. J. M. Barnes.

Interpersed with the musical numbers several hilarious motion picture comedies were put on and some lantern announcements made. Colonel James Moulson, Past Supreme Prelate of the Knights of Pythias of the world, and for years the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal for the Maritime Provinces and also Keeper of Records and Seal for the New Brunswick Lodge No. 1, gave a concrete address on "Fifty Years of Pythianism," with particular reference to the institution of the order in this city, and its spread throughout the eastern section of Canada. The Colonel's address was intensely interesting and told a story of sure and rapid advancement of the benevolent organization and of its present substantial standing both numerically and as to finances. He urged all Pythians to adhere strictly to their vows and principles and make greater and lasting the glorious work of the order.

Presentations. Before the platform program had been completed and previous to the showing of the motion pictures, John Beamish, who bears the distinction of being the father of Pythianism under the English flag, was invited to the platform amid tumultuous applause. With some very feeling remarks which were spiritedly assented to in the



COL. JAMES MOULSON, Speaker of the Evening.

Judges, making it the third largest assembly of its kind in the Western Hemisphere.

The Lights of Pythianism

The commemoration of the semi-centennial will be signalled by a demonstration in every locality on the continent where the principals of the ritualistic order had not only been spared but had been a pleasure to him personally, and it was his desire that his health and strength should be spared long to continue in the work. At the conclusion of the auditorium gathering the orchestra played a selection on the ladies and gentlemen went their way down stairs into the social suite where the fragrant odor of coffee and good things to eat had already given the lower section a most inviting aspect. Here the rooms were gorgeously decorated, the reception rooms being furnished as one great drawing room and the hall room being twined with Pythian colors. After a short conversation and reception in which the officers of the various lodges took a leading part assisted by their ladies, following the program of dances was commenced, the music being furnished by Jones orchestra. Grand March and circle, waltz, two-step, polka, waltz, drill, two-step, lancers, waltz and other extras.

Story of the Knights of Pythias

The order of Knights of Pythias had its conception in the dramatic and thrilling story of the friendship of two Pythagoreans—Damon and Pythias, in Syracuse, Sicily, during the reign of Dionysius the elder, 408 B. C.

A young school master, Justis Henry Rathbone, read the story in the drama of John Banin, an Irish litterateur, who put the incident into dramatic form in 1821. Young Rathbone was so impressed with the story that when he moved to Washington in 1825 he resolved to write the drama of a new fellowship and base it on the friendship of Damon and Pythias. This was during the crisis period of the nation's life; the Civil War had been in progress for nearly three years, and there was a great need of new alignment of the brotherhood of man. Rathbone, on February 15, 1824, read his ritual to four fellow clerks, and another meeting followed four days later with thirteen government clerks present. The order was then known as "The original thirteen" two—Abraham D. Van Derveer and Edward S. Kimball—are living and retain their membership in the order. It was at first thought that the order should be confined to Washington, and its membership restricted to government clerks; but the friendships it exalted were needed elsewhere; and the new society began to grow until at the close of fifty years it exceeded in membership by only two others—the one century old and the other soon to celebrate its centennial in this country. Today there are lodges, and nearly 800,000 men in the order, and the slogan is "a million members in our golden jubilee year, 1914."

Declaration of Principle

The order of Knights of Pythias, founded in friendship, charity and benevolence, says in its declaration of principles that it "strives to gather into one mighty fraternity worthy men who appreciate the true meaning of friendship, who are cautious in word and act, who love truth, who are brave in defending right, whose honor is untarnished, whose sense of justice will prevent to the best of their ability a personal act or word injurious to the worthy, whose loyalty to principle, to family, to friends, to their country, and to the constituted authority under which they enjoy citizenship is undoubted; and who at all times are prepared to do unto others as they would that others should do unto them."

Forty Million Dollars For Relief

While in 1912 the lodges of the order contributed \$1,700,000 for the relief of its members and their families, it has expended for the betterment of humanity, in this direction, more than \$40,000,000 during its half century. This represents its responses to the calls of human need; alleviating suffering in the time of storm and flood; providing food for the hungry and clothing for the naked wherever destitution and want have visited the human race; caring for aged and incapacitated veterans of the order; for the dependent widows and orphans of Pythians; and in a thousand and one ways of unostentatious service carrying sunshine into thousands of homes and hearts. Pythian victims of great disasters like those of the Yellow Fever epidemic in the south, the floods at Johnstown in '89, Galveston 1900 and in the middle west in 1913, from the case in Chicago 1871, Jackson, Wis. 1901, Chelsea, Mass. 1903, and the earthquake in San Francisco 1906—received in the aggregate nearly half a million dollars from their brethren; and the insurance department of the order, managed by a board of control elected by the supreme lodge, has paid to beneficiaries of deceased Pythians more than \$36,000,000.

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ELECTORAL PURITY UNDER DISCUSSION YESTERDAY

A. K. McLean, of Halifax, Moves his Famous Resolution in Parliament—Paints a Dismal Picture of Conditions in Canada.

(Continued from page 1)
Ottawa, Feb. 18.—According to an answer given to Hon. Geo. P. Graham by the Minister of Railways at the opening this afternoon, the total cost of the work of the National Transcontinental Railway investigation commission has been \$63,288. Mr. Guiteau received \$27,445 and Mr. Lynch \$24,038. The balance went for clerical assistance, etc. Mr. Cockerill announced that the commission had concluded its work and that all accounts presented had been paid.

In reply to Hon. Frank Oliver, the Minister of the Interior stated that the St. Peter's Indian reserve in Manitoba had been surrendered on September 24, 1907. The Indians still in residence on the reserve numbered 675, while 335 had been removed to the new reserve. The area of land on the St. Peter's reserve sold by the government totaled 1,123 acres and it was not known what amount had been sold by the Indians individually, in connection with this it may be noted that the government had made some steps to void the whole surrender and the land sold may have to be transferred back from the present holders to the government in trust for the Indians again.

More Undesirables Deported

According to an answer given to Mr. Oliver by Hon. Dr. Roche the number of deportations of undesirable immigrants and of the rejections at ports of entry has been very large during the last year or so. In 1910-11 the total number of deportations was 1,219. In 1911-12 it was 1,281 and for the first nine months of the present fiscal year the total was 1,203. The rejections in 1910-11 totalled 2,219. In 1911-12 it was 2,181 and for the first nine months of the present fiscal year 1,622.

Hon. H. R. Emmerson was told by the Minister of Railways that the residential property in Moncton now occupied by F. P. Brady, general superintendent of the I. C. R., cost about \$28,042. It was purchased from the widow of the late Peter S. Archibald for railway purposes in connection with minor changes in grades, etc. Mr. Murphy is now paying \$25 per month rent and the government had no information as to the price paid by the late Mr. Archibald originally for the property. In reply to Mr. Sinclair, the Minister of Railways said that the report of Mr. A. J. Greg, traffic expert of the I. C. R., in connection with the proposed branch railway from Sunny Brae, N. S., to Gaysboro, was not yet completed.

Favors Electoral Purity

Mr. A. K. McLean then introduced his resolution calling for a committee of nine to consider the improvement of the laws in regard to the electoral purity. Both parties had a blame, he said, in the past and he asked that his resolution be debated on its merits and not on the past records of either party.

Mr. McLean considered Canadian election laws, while they were quite strict in a number of respects, could be made more effective by the adoption of some features of the British laws in this respect. These included the provision by which a candidate was required to file within two months of his election a statement of all expenses incurred. In Canada this statement was called for but did not have to be accompanied by a declaration, and there was no sufficient penalty for failure to make it as in England, where a member could not take his seat until he had done so. Limitation of expenditure in constituencies on a population basis was also favored by English law.

Favors Public Prosecutor

The appointment of a public prosecutor, as in England, Mr. McLean also considered desirable. Such an official could take action if he considered the expenditure of a member could be used later to erect and maintain a Pythian home.

Enforceable Laws the Object

Mr. McLean's Sincerity Doubted
Mr. A. C. Boyce of West Algonia, did not think Mr. McLean's motives in moving his resolution were entirely sincere. In 1907 a somewhat similar resolution proposed by the opposition had been rejected by the then minister of justice, Sir Alan Aylesworth, without any dissent on the part of Sir Wilfrid Laurier agreed that the law today was too severe in some respects, but it was also too lax in others. The provisions in regard to publication of expenses, for instance, were not enforced, and the other hand candidates were sometimes unseated for the most trivial of misdemeanors, such as giving \$2 to a cabman. Yet there had been instances of tamable character never inquired into because the sitting member had immediately resigned his seat. In these respects the law could be amended and improved. As regards a committee, Sir Wilfrid rather doubted its wisdom, but hoped that if it were appointed it would do some good. He was not certain that compulsory voting would effect all that was expected of it. Voting, after all, was a privilege and there might be conscientious scruples against it.

Sir Wilfrid did not believe the country was as corrupt as Mr. Burnham had considered it, however, he favored the expediting of controverted election proceedings.

Enforceable Laws the Object.
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ability of candidates for acts committed by agents, etc. The statement of expenses as provided in the Dominion Elections Act was stringent and it had been observed. There should also be some reform as regards the prompt trial of election petitions. Mr. Borden in 1906 had favored the appointment of a public prosecutor and expressed the view that election trials should be brought on at once.

Mr. J. H. Burnham stated that the cynicism of people towards electoral corruption was "as terrible as it was pathetic."
"The man who stands for clean elections nowadays is regarded as a joke," he said. Corruption in Canada was at present so rife that it fairly smelt to heaven. Canada sent missionaries to the heathen and yet would not take the time to convert itself. Every body in Canada was cut after what he could get out of the country.

Danger from Opposite Extreme.
"We have had under consideration the desirability of improving the Dominion Elections Act," said Hon. C. J. Doherty. He pointed out, however, that there was the danger of making a law so severe as not to have public sympathy on the side of its enforcement.
"A committee such as was asked for had been appointed in 1903 but had resulted in nothing and so had a committee of 1906. The Minister of Justice was, however, disposed to follow the course of 1906 and move a resolution for the appointment of a committee later on.

The minister referred to the small number of election contestations that had resulted in their final conclusion. In some respects it might be said the very severity of the present law defeated its purpose. Many acts offensive in election time, considered breaches of the law, should there not be a greater difference made between the consequences of these acts, even though they were all still to be treated as faults? It was possibly a mistake the present law made in placing a large number of acts of varying degrees of gravity under the same head as regards the consequences attached, the minister might consider whether it would do something to reduce the number of election "saw-offs."

At the present time the man whose agent had committed some minor misdemeanor, and the other who was liberally carried on a corrupt election, were as one in the eyes of the law. Could they not be distinguished? The minister considered this would tend to reduce saw-offs.

The minister then referred to the would-be voters who were registered. It would be worthy of the committee's consideration, whether it could not be made the duty of the voter himself to go to the polls, not compulsory voting, but rather a registration at the poll itself, perhaps.

In conclusion, the minister proposed to go to the polls of his own regard to the matter. He considered that a committee of seven would be sufficient.

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As regards the English elections act, held up by Mr. MacLean, Mr. Borden pointed out that it was acknowledged to have its defects.
"I agree with my right hon. friend that in this country we are prone to exaggerate the extent to which bribery is carried on," said Mr. Borden. Personation, however, he considered an undispensed evil. Had the government considered a general election so imminent as the opposition appeared to, said Mr. Borden with a smile, it would have brought down a measure of reform before. He moved the adjournment of the debate.

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