

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE FORMATION
AND PROGRESS OF

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE

A. F. & A. M.

No. 1.

G. R. B. C.

The history of Freemasonry in the Province of British Columbia is inseparable from the Records of Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1.

Long before the present Grand Jurisdiction was established, Victoria Lodge No. 1085 was constituted under the authority of a Charter granted by the Grand Lodge of England, this memorable and auspicious event occurring on the 19th day of March, 1859.

It was the first Masonic Lodge to be constituted in these vast Western Domains, then known as New Caledonia and the Crown Colony of Vancouver Island, and which now form the present Province of British Columbia.

The Dominion of Canada was not yet formed, and the government of this country was in the hands of James Douglas, who was appointed by the British authorities.

Victoria was in a transition period of her history. Almost over night, the sleepy little back-woods trading post had been transformed into a city of tents and miners and adventurers from every part of the Western Hemisphere made their rendezvous on the flats at James Bay, and on either side of the Johnson Street ravine. Gold—that "Magic Talisman," had drawn them to Victoria, and it was among such surroundings, and in such exciting times, that Victoria Lodge No. 1085 was started on its Masonic journey.

The place of meeting was in a hall over Hibben & Carswell's stationery store on the south-east corner of Yates and