

A curious Masonic incident is related by Bro. Charles Du Val, in his work entitled "With a Show through Southern Africa," as having occurred in Pretoria, while beleaguered by the Boers during the late war in the Transvaal. The writer says: "A meeting of Freemasons was held towards the end of January, and under circumstances so entirely novel that it may be worth while to recount them. In the first place the members of the Craft had to obtain permission from their various commanding officers or respective Ward Masters, to attend the meeting. These passes, countersigned by the Garrison Adjutant, were granted at the bearer's own risk—the Masonic Hall of the town of Pretoria being the place of assembly. Slightly at variance with the motto of the brethren—'Peace, Love and Harmony'—was their appearance, clad in the various costumes of war, many carrying their rifles and bandoliers; a group of horses standing outside the hall, while the Master and officers of the lodge went through the various rites of the ancient Craft in an apartment through which the breezes freely blew, entering a line of loopholes knocked out of the wall at the one side to escape by a similar set at the other—possibly the most novel system of ventilation that ever admitted the fresh air to participate in the mystic ceremonies of the Free and Accepted ones, in either South Africa, or wherever else the maul has resounded, or the compasses been extended, in open Lodge.

The anniversary of St. John's Day was celebrated by the Masons of Thorne Lodge, No. 281, Orillia, with the usual installation ceremonies and general routine business. V. W. Bro. Hoy, assisted by the other brethren, obligated the W. M. elect, and placed the officers in their respective stations. Four petitions were received. The following are the officers for the ensuing year:—R. W. Bro. R. Ramsay, W. M.; Bros. T. B. Newton, S. W.;

S. M. Ford, J. W.; H. Johnson, Treas.; R. H. Denny, Sec.; F. G. Smith, S. D.; Chas. Jessopp, J. D.; J. L. Tipping, D. of C.; R. Strathearn, I. G.; W. Hurst and J. Tudhope, Stewards; D. McNab, Tyler. The lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to their annual banquet at the Orillia House, where they found Bro. Hurst had provided for them a hot supper with all the delicacies of the season; in fact many pronounced it the finest ever given in Orillia. A regular programme of toasts, sentiments, and songs was provided. The Thorne Lodge Glee Club added much to the pleasure of the evening, whilst the speeches of Bro. G. B. Ward, of Orillia Lodge; Capt. Kerr, Kerr Lodge, Barrie; Taylor, Prince of Wales Lodge, England; Charles McKenzie, of Orillia Lodge, proved at least that the visiting brethren were gratified with their reception. The Master, Bro. Ramsay, in his remarks, gave some interesting information as to the status and financial position of the Grand Lodge of Canada, stating that she had for the last seven years donated in good works over \$10,000 annually, and had in her treasury between sixty and seventy thousand dollars. In response to the toast of "Thorne Lodge," the S. W., Bro. Newton, stated that it had a membership of thirty, and the J. W., Bro. Ford, added that since December 4th it had initiated six candidates, and that there were six more petitions in, which with the four which were received on Tuesday evening, make sixteen applications for initiation since its re-organization, besides several for affiliation. The banquet broke up at low twelve, the brethren singing Auld Lang Syne. Bros. Denny, Johnson, Jessopp and Strathearn, responded to various sentiments, and Bros. Smith, Tipping, Tudhope, Hurst and Taylor, sang several very sweet and popular songs. The evening was one long to be remembered by Orillia Masons.—*Orillia Pocket.*