

Masonic Banquet

Officers of Victoria-Columbia Lodge, A.F. and A.M., Installed Last Evening.

Large Number Enjoyed Pleasant Past After the Ceremony—Mirth and Song.

Installation of officers of Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1, A. F. & A. M., commenced last evening at the Masonic Temple, Douglas street, and succeeded by a banquet which all unite in characterizing as one of the most enjoyable they had attended.

Inside, the city was wearing a mantle of joy and the ardor of pedestrians was assuaged by the knowledge that exercise was essential to resist the chilly adage of the snow queen. Inside, however, all was animation, and even had been no other warmth producing than the enjoyable nature of the program would have proven an irresistible barrier to the inward of cold.

The first portion of the evening was devoted to the ceremony of installation. Installing officers were: Grand Master, H. H. Watson, assisted by W. C. Ennor Sharp, W. Bro. W. B. Hickling, W. Bro. A. McKewen and Bro. S. Maxwell Muir.

The following officers were installed: J. W. Crocker, W. M.; W. Bro. J. Mason, I. P. M.; Bro. P. J. Ridd, S. W.; Bro. S. W. Edwards, I. W.; Bro. R. G. Brett, treasurer; W. Bro. S. Oddy, secretary; Bro. W. K. Kingston, S. D.; Bro. F. C. Davidge, J. Bro. G. D. Christie, D. of C.; Bro. Andrews, organist; Bro. R. H. King, I. G.; Bro. W. H. F. Richardson, E. Bro. Geo. Lewis, I. S.; Bro. F. Khan, Tyler.

After the ceremony a very pleasing event occurred to signalize the program. This was the presentation of handsome grand master's jewel to Mr. Master C. D. Mason. The presentation was made by Grand Master H. H. Watson in appropriate terms and heartily acknowledged by the recipient.

The members and friends then adjourned to the banquet hall, where a sumptuous repast had been prepared. The table, resplendent in a congenial arrangement of delicacies, was inviting. With mirth and song the evening was passed, and everybody enjoyed himself. The toast was then taken up and some excellent speeches were made.

The Queen and "Queen" was drunk the same patriotic and distinguishable similar functions in the past. Grand Lodge of B. C." was proposed by W. Bro. J. W. Crocker in an interesting speech, and was responded to by Grand Master H. H. Watson, of Vancouver, in a very witty and instructing address, giving a history of the craft in British Columbia from its formation to the present day.

Bro. C. Ennor Sharp also responded in a few well-chosen remarks, and noted several amusing incidents in relation to the craft throughout the world. Bro. A. M. Muir, grand director of emonies, also contributed some well-earned remarks.

Bro. F. Richardson rendered a comic oration, which was well received by present.

W. Bro. C. D. Mason proposed the newly installed officers, and spoke highly of their ability. He predicted a prosperous future for the lodge. His toast was responded to by W. Bro. J. W. Crocker, Senior Warden, Bro. J. P. Riddell, Junior Warden, W. Bro. S. W. Edwards and the remainder of the new officers.

Bro. W. K. Houston, after a few well-earned remarks, which were well received.

W. Bro. R. E. Brett proposed "The President of the United States," which was responded to by Bro. A. Smith, titled States consul, in his usual sparkling style, narrating several mirth-provoking anecdotes. He also eulogized resident McKinley in his Masonic career, and extolled the friendly relations that existed between Great Britain and Uncle Sam.

M. W. Bro. A. McKewen proposed the toast to "Sister Lodges" in his usual pleasing manner. He highly commended the grand master and the grand lodge of British Columbia. This toast was replied to by W. Bro. E. B. Paul, Vancouver and Quadra Lodge, in a few well-chosen remarks, also by W. Bro. P. J. Bailey, of United Service Lodge, who contributed some very instructive suggestions for the benefit of the craft throughout British Columbia.

Mr. H. Smith, of Temple Lodge, Dunsmuir, responded in an interesting speech, and bespoke a great future for Victoria. Mayor Hayward also replied to his toast in an able address, enlarging largely on the prospects of Victoria, which was the brightest of W. Bro. Edgewood Harrison responded in a few well-chosen remarks.

Junior Warden Bro. S. W. Edwards, in an attractive speech, proposed the toast to the "Visiting Brethren," which was drunk in a hearty manner. The toast was responded to by Bro. McKay, of Ottawa; Bro. Loutit, of Vancouver; and Bro. Fraser, of Jamaica. Senior Warden P. J. Riddell proposed the toast "Absent Brethren."

W. Bro. F. J. Bailey took occasion to allude to the exemplary career of the late A. Muir, of Esquimalt, fondly remembering on the many fine qualities of the departed brother. He referred to the great loss his death has been to the lodge.

Bro. Goodwin rendered a song in a laudable manner, while Bro. F. Richardson rendered "Soldiers of the Queen" in his usual style, which was received with applause and cheers.

The "Flyer's Toast" was proposed by Bro. F. Richardson, after which "Old Song" was sung, and the company dispersed.

FOR SALE—"Oak Farm." Lake District, 6 miles from Victoria, on West Saanich road, comprising 21 acres, nearly cultivated, and good buildings. For further particulars apply to John Black on premises.

HARD WORK.

It Tests the Quality of Both Blood and Muscle.

There are grades even in hard work. The actual labor may not be greater in one case than in another, but the conditions under which the work is done intensify the strain upon the entire body. To work in the harvest field, under a hot sun, after all, a healthful occupation. To work in a stoke hole, deep in the bowels of an ocean liner, or underground in some basement, imposes a more severe strain than the hardest work in the field on the hottest of July days.



Vital statistics tell the story. The average life of the man in the stoke hole, the rolling mill, the blast furnace, the glass factory, is far below the average life of the open air worker.

Yet the average life of these hard working men could be considerably prolonged if once and for all they would learn the force of that Biblical statement, "The blood is the life." If a man seeks to prolong his life, he must take account of his blood—for it is the vital fluid.

Waiting for the Worst. The chief cause of a physical breakdown is often the fact that people put off giving themselves proper care. They don't want to spend the money for medicine, or they don't feel quite sick enough to want to take it. They feel languid, "played out," as they say, and when the day's work is over there isn't a bit of "go" left in them. That's the time when the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery means a new grip on life, and the prevention of more serious ailments.

"It has been five years since I took your 'Golden Medical Discovery' for an affection called scrofulous enlargement of the glands of the neck," writes Mr. Zabolon B. Lottin, of Grifton, Pitt Co., N. C., "and I am glad to tell you that I have had no return of the disease. I thought I would write you and let you know that I have not forgotten you, and never will while I live."

"You may publish this if you wish, and if any-one wishes to know about my testimonial they are at liberty to write to me, and I will acknowledge the truth in return."

"For three years I have suffered with that dread disease, eczema," writes Mrs. J. Koepf, of Hermann, Oregon. "I was told to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, which I did, and afterwards had taken fourteen bottles I was permanently cured. It has been a year since I stopped taking your medicine and the disease has never appeared since. Your medicine produced a wonderful cure, and I hope others suffering as I did, will take it and be relieved of their suffering."

WELCOME HOME.

Saanich En Fete in Honor of Private Brethour.

Pte. Brethour, of the first contingent, was given an enthusiastic reception upon his return to Saanich, where his home is situated. As the train bearing him pulled into Saanich on New Year's night, a company of little girls in white sang "Soldiers of the Queen," while the young men of the district bore him on their shoulders to the school house. Here another ovation was given the young soldier. The young ladies sang the "Maple Leaf," while Revs. Messrs. Reid and Winslow delivered addresses.

At the conclusion of the programme, the occasion was given the young soldier. The young ladies sang the "Maple Leaf," while Revs. Messrs. Reid and Winslow delivered addresses.

A brief but mainly ripe was made by the wife of the man who was then taken in charge by his friends, a reunion of the Brethour family following at Julius Brethour's house, where 46 members of the Brethour family had gathered in honor of the occasion, the collector of customs at Nanaimo presiding.

IS AGUINALDO DEAD?

Death Alleged to Have Been Kept Secret in Order to Prolong Rebellion.

(Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 4.—President Benjamin H. Wheeler, of the University of California, who is now in the city, has information to the effect that Aguinaldo is dead and that his death occurred no less than six months ago. The news has been kept secret, it is said, for the purpose of prolonging the rebellion.

CABINET CRISIS PROBABLE.

Madrid, Jan. 5.—It seems certain that a general crisis will occur after the suspension of the sittings of the chambers. The ministers say the marriage of Princess of Asturias to Prince Charles, and the death of the Count of Caserta, will occur during the first fortnight of February.

Canada and The Empire

The Eloquent Premier of Ontario's Tribute to Britain at the Otter Banquet.

"She Has Fought Everywhere and Everything" For the Benefit of Mankind.

At the banquet in the city of Toronto in honor of the Canadians who had returned from the South African campaign, Hon. Geo. W. Ross spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen—I thank you very much for your kind reception. I am delighted to be here to-night, although I had felt almost a little out of place, not being a military man. I am merely a civilian, but a sort of military civilian—that is to say, I have been in many campaigns. (Laughter.) Not so fatal as the campaign from which Col. Otter, his officers and men so triumphantly returned. But I have been in a good many marches, have made some forced marches, and have gone through some very narrow defiles. (Renewed laughter and applause.) They have been made to ambush me two or three times, and generally I have had no hard time as a civilian that I am going to join the military ranks for safety. (Laughter.) I have been asked to respond to the toast of the empire and its defenders. The defenders of the empire may be divided into two classes: combatants and non-combatants. The non-combatants being largely in the majority, as they are here to-night. The percentage is about one to one hundred, taking the average for the world over. The non-combatants are as important in their place as those on active service. I am speaking a word for myself now, you know, and for the rest of you who have not been to South Africa. (Laughter and applause.)

Men Who Foot the Bill. We supply the sinews of war; we see that the commissaries have their own hand in time; we supply the munitions of war; we help to foot the bill. We generally look after the interests of the army and navy in a gentle, considerate and kindly manner. Without non-combatants there could scarcely be an army or navy, because there would be no one to replenish those forces.

Then, again, the spirit of the non-combatant largely makes the spirit of the combatant. That great invisible army that never goes to battle is just as useful as the army that goes to the front and plays with Maxims and Gatlings. It is useful because it furnishes the means for the spirit. The army looks to the great forces of non-combatants for applause, for commendation, to the reward which the soldier has a right to look for from his country. (Applause.) "Westminster Abbey or victory" was the cry of Nelson just before the battle of Trafalgar. There could never have been any Westminster Abbey had it not been for the non-combatant. There is no similar offer of free consultation by letter which has behind it an institution of such world wide reputation as the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., with its staff of nearly a score of physicians, and its great record of cures.

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"The moment the treaty of peace was ratified," he said, "that moment it became the supreme law of the land. If the President had refused to maintain the sovereignty of the United States, he would have laid himself liable to impeachment."

"Has he not already given up sovereignty over a portion of Alaska?" enquired Mr. Wellington. Mr. Carter replied that what the President had done as to the Alaskan boundary had been accomplished through a modus vivendi, a purely temporary arrangement.

"It is nevertheless a fact," declared Mr. Wellington, "that territory over which we had undisputed sovereignty has been abandoned. The British flag has been raised, and it is controlled by the British constabulary. That is a fact."

Mr. Carter—"That is the alleged fact only."

Mr. Wellington said the Alaskan boundary was distinctly marked by stones, and the territory acquired by the United States from Russia was clearly defined by the President's adding "if relinquished territory in the Philippines, he should likewise be impeached for relinquishing sovereignty in Alaska."

Senator Pettigrew to-day introduced the following resolution in the Senate: "Resolved that the Senate hereby expresses its condemnation of the refusal of the secretary of war, under whatever influence, to send to the Senate copies of papers called for by its resolution of December 19th, requiring the secretary of war to send to the Senate the report of A. L. Lavale in relation to the violation of his official duty, and fundamental principles of a good administration thereof."

Consideration of the resolution was postponed until to-morrow.

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Cyrus H. Bowes, CHEMIST. 98 GOVERNMENT ST., NEAR YATES ST.

POUL PLAY SUSPECTED. Dr. Bettinger Missing—Topeka Likely to Be Floated.

A correspondent to the Times writes from Skagway as follows: White Horse, Dec. 24.—Mrs. Dr. Bettinger is in White Horse. She is waiting for her husband. He left Dawson before her and she has arrived four days ahead of him. She thinks he has met with foul play. He was last seen at Ogilvie. He was rather well-dressed, and it is thought might have made some person think he had money. The police are out searching, but have found no clue.

Dec. 25.—The government vessel went down last evening, but it is now up again. White Horse celebrated Christmas royalty. The town was crowded with people coming from Caribou, upper and lower Labarge and other places near by. The N. W. M. police entertained the railroad employees at a banquet, and they had a big time. The W. P. & Y. railway did not run any trains on Christmas. All the stores were closed in Skagway, except the confectionery. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

Dec. 27.—The people of Atlin and Taku have got a petition out asking the British Columbia government to fix the Pan Am trail so that heavy sleighs can travel on it. As it is now only dog teams with experienced drivers can make satisfactory time.

Dec. 28.—The Dirigo arrived about 8.30 last evening. She had struck an iceberg about 7 a.m. on Friday. The iceberg was floating in Gastineau channel, below Juneau. She was running at full speed and shattered her stern below the water line. Examination showed nothing whatever was wrong, only her stern was shattered. Capt. Lloyd, of the Alki, who called in to see the wrecked Topeka, says if the south wind does not come up she will be off tomorrow morning. She is nearly off now, and some help from the Alki will put her in towing shape. They will take her to Juneau and expect to be there to-morrow night (the 29th). Murray McDonald, whose mysterious disappearance at White Horse last June caused so much remark, has been found to have taken passage on the City of Seattle June 27th for Vancouver. He occupied a stateroom with R. W. Abrahams, of Seattle.

Dec. 29.—The passenger rates have fallen from \$125 to \$100 from White Horse to Dawson. The big companies are doing most of the freighting. The Canadian Development Company is taking freight at 50c a pound. Small freighters find it cheap to ship by the big companies. Broken down horses are numerous on the trail. The fine team that came up on the Denbu were laid up for repairs 100 miles from White Horse. The W. P. & Y. railroad employees dance at Skagway was a big success. It was done up in regular railroad style. They are having no trouble with the snow on the W. P. & Y. route. The weather for this time of year is very delightful.

The northern weather report for December 29th is as follows: Bennett—Cloudy, 21 below. Pike River—Cloudy, calm, mild. Nakina—Cloudy, calm, mild. Naklin—Cloudy, west wind, 8 above. Lakool—Cloudy, southeast wind, 10 above. Telegraph Creek—Cloudy, calm, 10 above. Caribou—Cloudy, south wind, 25 above. White Horse—Cloudy, south wind, 18 above. Atlin—Cloudy, calm, 25 above. Tughess—Cloudy, calm, 15 above. Upper Labarge—Cloudy, calm, 22 above. Lower Labarge—Cloudy, calm, 23 above. Hootalinqua—Cloudy, snowing, 23 above. Big Salmon—Cloudy, snowing, mild. Five Fingers—Cloudy, calm, 18 above. Ogilvie—Part cloudy, snowing 12 below. Selkirk—Clear, calm, 7 above. Selwyn—Cloudy, strong west wind, 7 below. Dawson—Calm, cloudy, 3 below. Forty-Mile—Cloudy, calm, 10 above.

AMONG THE LODGES.

Officers for the Year Installed Last Evening.

Majestic Lodge, Royal Arcanum, held their regular meeting last evening when the installation of officers for the present term was performed. The work of installing the officers was undertaken by Deputy Supreme Regent Jos. Sears, assisted by other officers of the order. After the ceremony the following new officers delivered brief speeches: Past Regent, W. J. Dowler; regent, J. W. Bolden; vice-regent, R. R. Watson; collector, Jos. Sears; treasurer, W. H. Jones; secretary, R. Jenkinson; orator, W. B. Shakespeare; secretary, F. Bamford; treasurer, P. A. Babington; warden, D. Burns; con. J. Freeman; R.S.N.G. L. Cousins; L.S.N.G. J. M. Malcolm; I.G. J. R. Phillips; O.G. W. H. Huxtable; R.S.W. Wm. Ralph; L.S.S. B. Bragg; R.S.V.G. W. Wilks; L.S.V.G. Wm. Merrifield.

The Woodmen of the World will hold their regular installation ceremony this evening as well as last Far West Lodge K. of P. Victoria Lodge, No. 17, K. of P., postponed their installation services until next Thursday. Considerable business was, however, transacted, among which was the election of Bros. E. B. Leason and E. P. Nathan as delegates to the Grand Lodge.

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Dec. 28.—The Dirigo arrived about 8.30 last evening. She had struck an iceberg about 7 a.m. on Friday. The iceberg was floating in Gastineau channel, below Juneau. She was running at full speed and shattered her stern below the water line. Examination showed nothing whatever was wrong, only her stern was shattered. Capt. Lloyd, of the Alki, who called in to see the wrecked Topeka, says if the south wind does not come up she will be off tomorrow morning. She is nearly off now, and some help from the Alki will put her in towing shape. They will take her to Juneau and expect to be there to-morrow night (the 29th). Murray McDonald, whose mysterious disappearance at White Horse last June caused so much remark, has been found to have taken passage on the City of Seattle June 27th for Vancouver. He occupied a stateroom with R. W. Abrahams, of Seattle.

Dec. 29.—The passenger rates have fallen from \$125 to \$100 from White Horse to Dawson. The big companies are doing most of the freighting. The Canadian Development Company is taking freight at 50c a pound. Small freighters find it cheap to ship by the big companies. Broken down horses are numerous on the trail. The fine team that came up on the Denbu were laid up for repairs 100 miles from White Horse. The W. P. & Y. railroad employees dance at Skagway was a big success. It was done up in regular railroad style. They are having no trouble with the snow on the W. P. & Y. route. The weather for this time of year is very delightful.

The northern weather report for December 29th is as follows: Bennett—Cloudy, 21 below. Pike River—Cloudy, calm, mild. Nakina—Cloudy, calm, mild. Naklin—Cloudy, west wind, 8 above. Lakool—Cloudy, southeast wind, 10 above. Telegraph Creek—Cloudy, calm, 10 above. Caribou—Cloudy, south wind, 25 above. White Horse—Cloudy, south wind, 18 above. Atlin—Cloudy, calm, 25 above. Tughess—Cloudy, calm, 15 above. Upper Labarge—Cloudy, calm, 22 above. Lower Labarge—Cloudy, calm, 23 above. Hootalinqua—Cloudy, snowing, 23 above. Big Salmon—Cloudy, snowing, mild. Five Fingers—Cloudy, calm, 18 above. Ogilvie—Part cloudy, snowing 12 below. Selkirk—Clear, calm, 7 above. Selwyn—Cloudy, strong west wind, 7 below. Dawson—Calm, cloudy, 3 below. Forty-Mile—Cloudy, calm, 10 above.

AMONG THE LODGES.

Officers for the Year Installed Last Evening.

Majestic Lodge, Royal Arcanum, held their regular meeting last evening when the installation of officers for the present term was performed. The work of installing the officers was undertaken by Deputy Supreme Regent Jos. Sears, assisted by other officers of the order. After the ceremony the following new officers delivered brief speeches: Past Regent, W. J. Dowler; regent, J. W. Bolden; vice-regent, R. R. Watson; collector, Jos. Sears; treasurer, W. H. Jones; secretary, R. Jenkinson; orator, W. B. Shakespeare; secretary, F. Bamford; treasurer, P. A. Babington; warden, D. Burns; con. J. Freeman; R.S.N.G. L. Cousins; L.S.N.G. J. M. Malcolm; I.G. J. R. Phillips; O.G. W. H. Huxtable; R.S.W. Wm. Ralph; L.S.S. B. Bragg; R.S.V.G. W. Wilks; L.S.V.G. Wm. Merrifield.

The Woodmen of the World will hold their regular installation ceremony this evening as well as last Far West Lodge K. of P. Victoria Lodge, No. 17, K. of P., postponed their installation services until next Thursday. Considerable business was, however, transacted, among which was the election of Bros. E. B. Leason and E. P. Nathan as delegates to the Grand Lodge.