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BRITISH ENSIGN.

"I lift on high the flag of Britain's fame,
The flag that shines through many a grand old story
Of breeze and battle, wave and ice, and flame,
Wherever Britain's sons have fought for glory.
Flag of my fathers! Here I lift thee high;
'Neath thee I live; 'neath thee I wish to die."

The Coming of Age.

The coming of age of our beloved Order has roused a desire among a large number, that hitherto looked upon Englishmen as having no national existence in the Dominion of Canada, to make enquiry as to what we are doing, and what is our aim and what is our claim to national existence. What we are here for has been shown in every town and city in the Dominion, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, which our reports will demonstrate.

Ald. Bro. Fred. Cook, declared to the Ottawa gathering that the dimensions of the Order had now arrived at the stage of its national existence when it must be counted of political importance in the Dominion, and the contemptuous expression that in the past has been so freely used to designate the want of unity among Englishmen is no longer applicable to our nationality.

The Sons of England Society's mission is one by which all Englishmen can take a pride—NATIONAL and BENEFIT—and by its unswerving devotion to England and her institutions, is now looked upon as a political link between the Mother Country and Canada. They are obligated to maintain the "integrity of the Empire," and, therefore, can always be relied upon to be in the foreground in support of all measures to cement that link of national kinship.

It is not generally known that this benefit and national society of Englishmen are adding to its numbers each month, and are distributing a large amount of financial and medical aid to its members.

Among the 15,000 members in Canada is paid out something over \$1,000 a month in sick dues, etc. The society as a reserve fund of nearly \$100,000.

The Insurance Branch of the Order is very strong, and its importance is demonstrated by the payment of some \$28,000 to deceased members' wives during the past year.

Carman, Manitoba.

Bro. Richard Salter, the oldest member of the Society and a pioneer in Manitoba, spoke as follows on the occasion of the anniversary:

In replying to the toast of "The Land We Left," at our last banquet, many pleasant recollections were revived in my memory. I do not intend to bring the scenes of my youth before you again. I was much pleased at the enthusiasm with which the toast of Her Majesty was received. As Sons of England, when the land we left has been proposed, it brings many proud feelings to us as branches of the old stock which has in the past upheld and defended the honor and integrity of the flag that has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze, and looking back nearly half a century I am impressed with the thought that Providence has shaped our course. Rough hew them as we may, our doings and endeavors are still advancing the power of our adopted land and the greatness of the Empire of which we form a part. In looking back a few years we see the advancement made, when only a short time ago all around us was the pasture of the buffalo and the home of the savage—all under the care and protection of the Union Jack, the emblem of England's greatness; and as some are vainly thinking that the old land is losing her power and influence, I am proud to say that the pilot at the helm of state has just declared that we need fear no rival in commerce nor any enemy in war, for to-day England is stronger and richer ways more influence than at any other time. To-night the Sons of England we in this far off land form part of an organization for the purpose of relieving each other in sickness and distress, and to show our fidelity and loyalty to the land we left, and we have cause to feel proud and highly honored to see so many assembled with us to strengthen

our endeavors to keep up the fond remembrance of the land we left, and let me invite my fellow-countrymen present to come and join us and help us in our aims to relieve each other in sickness and distress. Our motto is

FIDELITY TO QUEEN AND COUNTRY

to keep in remembrance the land of our fathers, and in doing so we show our loyalty both to the land we left and to this land of our adoption, where we have the advantage of independence and national glory. We are fully convinced that perpetuation of our connection with the British Empire is the path to success, for her laws, which are copied by all nations, are founded on the Bible, and so long as we maintain the privilege of an open Bible, and so long as we maintain the privilege of an open Bible we not fear of our course as a nation advancing in success and greatness. I will conclude with the words of the poet, "England, with all thy faults I love thee still," for absence makes the heart grow fonder. Isle of beauty, fare thee well.

Moncton, N. B.

Lodge Shaftesbury, No. 208, celebrated the coming of age by a social and entertainment, and a very enjoyable evening was spent by the members and their friends. The President, Bro. Geo. H. Pick, gave an able and stirring address, setting forth the aims and objects of the S.O.E., and appealing to the patriotism of his hearers as follows:—Coupled with what I have already stated there is also other and important reasons why Englishmen and their descendants should be members of such orders as this the Sons of England.

enlightened England is not so exacting. She is cool and calm in her deliberations and in her judgments, but she goes straight on, bending to no opposition, ever increasing her power and her influence; ever striving to elevate other nations to her own high standard of civilization. Brothers, remember you are England's Sons; bear that fact in your minds always. Whenever you feel inclined to act with injustice towards men think of the land which gives you your name of Englishman. Whenever for the sake of mere prosperity and wealth you feel inclined to give yourself and your freedom to another country, think of what you owe to your own motherland, and the inclination will die away because of the instincts which our dear old country breeds in her children, and as we are with all other men partakers of the brotherhood of nature, let us endeavor, Sons of England, to make our special brotherhood of charity a reality. Let there be no false brethren, no envious brethren, or churlish brethren, among our ranks; let not our badge of brotherly love cover a narrow-minded heart or a false heart, let us be to the very core, first Christians, then Englishmen.

Chilliwack, B. C.

Lodge Chilliwack, No. 191, celebrated the 21st anniversary by a banquet, when an enthusiastic gathering were present, and the toast, "We were dearly respected by Bro. H. Webb, occupied the chair, and controlled effectively the large number present. There were a number of patriotic songs rendered in a most acceptable manner, the speech of the evening was made

New Glasgow, N. S.

In common with the other lodges in the Dominion of Canada, Kenilworth lodge decided to keep the anniversary of the Order, by a concert in the lodge room. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Bro. Taylor, D. G. Chaplain, supported by Rev. Mr. Croft, Deputy G. Chaplain and Rev. Mr. Lea. The chairman made a loyal and patriotic address, dwelling upon the growth of the Order throughout Canada. Addresses were also given by the Rev. Mr. Croft and Lea. Kenilworth lodge is doing well, and so are the other lodges in the Province, and the future prospects are very bright.

Halifax, N.S.

The anniversary was enjoyably spent by a large gathering of members and friends of lodge Halifax. The chair was taken by Bro. J. Wittmore, who ably performed that function. The entertainment consisted of speeches, songs, etc., after which refreshments were served, and dancing was indulged in by those who were inclined. Bro. G. Chaplin was the speaker of the evening, he roused his hearers to deep interest in the Order and the cause of Englishmen.

Port Hope, Ont.

The 21st was fittingly celebrated by the brethren of Durham lodge. It took the shape of a musical concert and addresses. A feature of the evening was a patriotic recitation by Master Harry White, "England." Speeches were made by Bros. T. D. Craig, M.P., Henry White, A. Skitch, W. F. Trayes, Dr. Cleimesha and many others.

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The most important of which is to keep up and perpetuate that loyalty so essential for the welfare of the greatest nation on earth to-day, Old England, God bless her. It is true that men who have been loyal to their motherland very often forget themselves when they become residents in a foreign country. Had these men been members of such a society as this, where the principles of loyalty are inculcated at our nightly meetings. They would stop and consider well before they swore their allegiance. What more repugnant oath was ever adopted by a nation than that our neighbours the United States of America. In taking it a man has to swear mortal enmity to the country of his birth, no matter what nationality he may be. Free and

by Bro. Mellard, G.D.D. After outlining the ups and downs of the Order during the past 21 years, and stating what a benefit it had been in cementing Englishmen together, as well as giving financial and medical aid. He spoke of Lodge Chilliwack as follows: "I am pleased to see that notwithstanding financial depression Lodge Chilliwack is still able to hold her own, and I hope that every brother in the lodge will study its interests, and endeavor to increase its members; this can be done if we try to do it, and with all our might." Again thanking you, brothers, my hope is that you will all continue to be true to yourselves, true to your country, and loyal to your Queen." Dr. Henderson, Bros. Ogle, Newnham and P.P. Pelly spoke.

Ridgetown, Ont.

Lodge Lancashire, No. 190, celebrated the 21st by a supper in the lodge room, given by the retiring officers. We initiated 10 candidates last month, and are now hopeful of carrying out our obligation in a more thorough manner than in the past. We dropped a good deal of activity and lost our zeal for the Order. The weakness is, I am sure, in the want of unity and organizing power of the officers.

Bro. R. J. Sanderson, of lodge Rose of Couchiching, No. 23, ex-Mayor of Orillia, started for the Old Country on Saturday the first instant. He sailed from Portland by the Mongolian, and expects to be absent two or three months.