



Vol. VIII { 8th Year of Publication. }
No. 10

OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA, FEBRUARY 1, 1895.

\$1.00 A Year
Single Copies 5 Cents

MASS MEETING OF

THE S. O. E. LODGES OF THE
WEST END, TORONTO.

Wm. Hancock, Supreme G.P., John W. Carter, S.G.S., George Clatworthy, S.G.V.P., Lieut.-Col. Fred. Denison, M.P. and other Prominent Englishmen addressed the gathering.

From our own Correspondent.

Toronto, Jan. 25th, 1895.—On Tuesday, Jan. 22nd, under the auspices of Birmingham lodge, No. 60, a mass meeting of the S. O. E., was held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, Queen St., West. Bro. T. Ferguson, D.D. for west Toronto, who convened the meeting, presided. He was supported by Bro. Wm. Hancock, S.G.P., Bro. Geo. Clatworthy, S.G.V.P., and Bro. John W. Carter, S.G.S. There were present amongst numerous other brethren, Bro. Lt.-Col. Denison, M.P., Bro. Ald. W. Bell, Bro. F. Parkham, P.D.D., Bro. Geo. Clay, P. Parkham, Bro. A. J. Forster, Secretary Norfolk lodge, P. T. Press, P.P. Norfolk lodge, and Rev. H. Softley.

Bro. Wm. Hancock, S.G.P., upon being called upon to speak, and receiving loud applause, said that "during his term of office he had travelled 5,000 miles in the interest of the Order, and made 150 visits to lodges, and up to the present he had opened 12 new lodges. He was pleased to say that upon every occasion of coming in contact with his brethren he had met with the greatest courtesy and kindness. It had always been his aim to treat a refractory brother with kindness and gentle treatment, for you cannot drive an Englishman, but you can lead him with a silken thread." (Applause.)

Bro. Hancock gave some interesting details of his visit to the eastern provinces, which were too long for our limited space. In speaking of the coming Grand Lodge meeting, he "trusted the brethren would bring a fair and impartial spirit to bear upon the many points to be discussed by that grand body. Every member thinks he knows everything. Let harmony and good feeling actuate every member, and he had not the least doubt the result would be satisfactory to all. Let the new Constitution be discussed with an unbiased mind for, after all, it is mostly a revision of conflicting clauses in the previous one." He advocated a "closer union in the lodge-room; a greater facility for knowing each other and exchanging opinions. More time should be allotted for conversation and amusement, and that refreshments should not be allowed in either lodge or ante-rooms. He had not had the pleasure of visiting a juvenile lodge nor the organization of the Daughters of England. He fully sympathized with them in the aims and objects and believed, from what he could learn, that the two societies were doing good work, and he hoped, although he had not been able to interest himself in their welfare, that other brethren would do so."

Bro. Geo. Clatworthy, S.G.V.P., the next speaker, believed "the time had arrived when some provision should be made for a Supreme Lodge with subordinate Grand Lodges. Our ramifications were extending. South Africa practically had a Grand Lodge, and in the near future, from present indica-

tions, Australia would be taking up the organization of the S.O.E.B.S., and he trusted that the merits and demerits of the question would be discussed in a calm and judicial manner. Let no factious opposition be made, but discuss it in a fair and impartial spirit. The revision has cost a large sum of money and some of the best minds of the Order have been engaged upon it."

Bro. Jno. W. Carter, S.G.S., met with a hearty reception and gave one of his old time speeches. He dwelt mainly upon the duties of members as members of the society. He very pithily showed the brethren that "no differences, no ill feeling could exist in a lodge if the members lived up to their obligation. It would be sheer impossibility for a lodge to be anything else but harmonious and prosperous. There was too much of a lack of that fraternal feeling which should exist amongst us, and the sooner we cultivated that feeling more than we had in the past the better it would be for the society and the individual."

Bro. Lt.-Col. Fred. Denison, M.P., moved a vote of thanks to the G. L. officers, which was seconded by Bro. Ald. W. Bell, and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was tendered Bro. T. Ferguson, D.D., for the manner in which he filled the chair. The meeting then closed, the members singing "God Save the Queen."

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

ENGLISHMEN ORGANISING IN
THE PRAIRIE PROVINCE.

(Special to the ANGLO-SAXON)

Winnipeg, Jan. 17th.—The holidays being now well over we are all open to every kind of business proposition which may put a dollar in our pockets, in the present or in prospective.

Since the new year opened upon us our District Deputy, Bro. Jacob Freeman, has been busy installing the various lodges and doing his best to promote harmony and concord amongst the flock committed to his charge. Westward Ho, on Tuesday eve, 15th inst., was the last of the Winnipeg group of lodges to receive his services in this direction.

The following night was appropriated to the still more important ceremonial of instituting a new lodge, one which is henceforth to be known to the world by the somewhat significant title of Lodge Marston Mocre, No. 213, a list of the officers of which will be found in another column.

At the close of the proceedings, at a very late hour, the D.D., in a short but forcible address, pointed out with pride the advancement of the Order since the institution of Westward Ho in the latter part of the year 1889, the number of that lodge being 88, while the new one just instituted was 213; in other words, that in the first fifteen years from the foundation of the Order, in 1874, ninety-eight lodges had been formed, and during the last five, one hundred and fifteen, thus showing an arithmetical progression of increase which must for ever give the lie to the statement sometimes made, that Englishmen can never work in harmony or hang together like other nationalities. Undoubtedly these are hard times to start any new financial enterprise, more especially a national one. The new venture will have the good wishes of the older lodges.

New Westminster, B.C.

THE VIRTUES OF THE S. O. E.
EXTOLLED.

An interesting Address Delivered by Bro. T. A. Shackleton, to His brother Englishmen at W. Rose Meeting of Rose of Columbia Lodge, New Westminster, B.C.

It is now 20 years since a small band of Englishmen pledged their support and sympathy to each other. The S. O. E. will ere long complete its majority, and, seeing its position and influence to-day in this fair Dominion, I think, with your kind permission, it will not be out of place if I say a few words on what has been accomplished in the past and what will probably be accomplished in the future.

When our beloved society first started outsiders said it would soon collapse even our own countrymen distrusted it, and one and another said, "Who ever heard of Englishmen clubbing together to help one another?" Yet, in spite of all obstacles and drawbacks, the fact remains that Englishmen have learnt the valuable lesson of co-operation. Look, for instance, at the blood which flows in our veins, the warm, impulsive and brave Welsh, the disciplined, road-building, all-conquering Roman, the crafty, fierce Dane, the steady, patient, fearless mixture of our Great German forefathers, the Jutes, Anglo Saxons, not to forget the haughty polished Norman, with their Norse, sea-robber instincts and valor. All these bloods and traits of character blended into one homogeneous whole, and predominated by the true and fearless, though often uncouth, Anglo-Saxon. These, I say, enable us to lift up our heads and make us a match for all kind and conditions of men. Englishmen, as represented by the S.O.E., are the peers of the best of the human family to-day. Their Benevolent Society is the cheapest financial benefit society on the continent of America to-day.

OUR GROWTH AND INFLUENCE.

In Canada over 200 lodges exist, representing an average of over 70 members per lodge, or between 13,000 and 14,000 in all. In Africa there are now 8 or 10 lodges. Soon we expect to hear of S. O. E. lodges in Australia and other parts of our great Empire. We already have a district deputy in the world's capital, London, England. Founded upon the teaching and lessons of the Holy Bible, our Society has in the past made a record for fraternity and benevolence unsurpassed by any society in the world. Though a non-conformist myself, I must acknowledge that it has had a tendency to draw our members to the grand old useful Anglican Church, and may it so continue to do is the prayer of my heart. Now, although it has done so much in the past and present, yet, like unto the Church at Ephesus, "though I know its works and how it has toiled and had patience and fainted not," yet I have somewhat against it.

POLITICAL POSITION.

It has not done politically for its members all that its numbers and influence ought to have done, and at present the majority of its members are not fully alive to their best interests politically. We do not plump for Imperial Federation as solidly as we ought; we do not appreciate all that we might do for one another politically. Whilst deprecating

and trusting that our beloved Society may never become a mere political machine like Tammany Hall, I do say, as the first and the greatest portion of the English speaking race, it behoves us to enjoy our birthright. Continuing to follow in the footsteps of the great founder of charity and fraternity—I would, like unto one of old, say, "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward." Hardly 50 years ago Gordon, commander of Her Majesty's ship *America*, said he would not give one of the smallest Knolls of the Highlands in Scotland for the whole of this country of British Columbia; because, forsooth, he could not catch salmon with the rod and fly. Now, to-day, where 50 years ago no sound broke the primeval silence, the sound of steamboat and railway whistle is heard; mighty sawmills turn out huge quantities of lumber, and our own people follow their daily occupations, not as dwellers in a hostile country, but as in their native land and under their own grand old Union Jack. May the all-wise ruler of the universe keep us true to the responsibilities of our great inheritance, and all will be well with us. May fraternity of the true Christ-like character conceived in the construction of our magnificent constitution be carried out, not with iron-clad rigidity, but in the spirit of doing unto others as we would that they should do unto us. May we all spare neither time, strength nor means to extend our beloved society in numbers and usefulness and, verily, the reward of goodness will be ours and to our children for ever.

Brandon, Manitoba.

The "At Home" by Lodge Brandon, No. 174, S. O. E. B. S., on the 15th January, in the lodge-room, proved a decided success (in evidence of which are the very favourable local press notices). Great praise is due the committee, Bros. Hetherington, Chubb, Hogg, Slack, Cullis and Vinning, to whom was entrusted the management, a short account of which cannot be given any better than by referring to the local press report as follows:—

"The Sons of England provided a splendid programme and social time on Tuesday night for the members of the Lodge and their friends. This was their annual 'At Home,' and a better time possibly they have never spent. There was no restraint among the visitors, for while there was little time to go around introducing one another, there was present that feeling that British blood is the same whether found here or at home. The room was tastefully decorated, the Union Jack of Old England being draped above the President's chair, which was occupied by Rev. McAdam Harding, the Chaplain. The best talent (all of which was English) in the city took part in the programme, many pieces of which were heartily encored and reflected great credit on the performers, which consisted of instrumental duets, Misses Chubb and Pilling; violin solos, Mr. Martin and Bro. Fison; songs, Misses Pilling and Warner, Mr. Wathen and Bro. Rev. J. Robinson; instrumental solo, Miss Chubb; reading, Bro. Baker; recitations, M. Vilbert and Bro. Robey. During the intermission Bro. Vinning, the Secretary, gave an outline of the origin, history, progress, aims and objects of the Society.

"The programme being concluded about 10:30 p. m., the National Anthem was sung, after which refreshments were served and games indulged in. Dancing commenced at 12 o'clock and was kept up till the small hours of the morning, when the 'Red White and Blue' was sung, and everyone dispersed well satisfied with having spent as jolly a time as could be wished for."

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