

ORANGE GRAND LODGE IN SESSION AT ST. STEPHEN.

It Was Opened Last Tuesday, and the Time Was Occupied in Hearing Reports of Grand Officers.

ST. STEPHEN, N. B., March 8.—St. Stephen is honored today with the presence here of the officers and members of the Orange Grand Lodge to the number of about sixty, with a large contingent coming in on the evening train. The first session of Grand Lodge was held this evening, the grand master presiding. A cordial address of welcome was read by W. S. A. Douglas, county master of Charlotte, in which he recalled that twelve years since St. Stephen was favored with the presence of the Grand Lodge and assured the members that the hearts of our brethren in the other counties had them welcome and pledged them their fidelity to the principles of their beloved order. The evening session was largely devoted to the consideration of the report of the grand secretary, grand treasurer, and grand master. The grand master recalled that in 1892, in St. Stephen, he attended for the first time the meeting of Grand Lodge. He regretted the absence of many who had been called home within that time. He had the pleasure to forward to the interests of the order. He had adopted and followed as far as possible the plan of visiting the rural lodges. The prosperity of the Dominion was pleasing to them all. The death of Cecil Rhodes, one of our empire builders, was deplored and the policy of Mr. Chamberlain endorsed. The members of the Orange Association will hold with vigor the consummation of a policy that will make our empire more united and powerful than in the past. He visited several primary lodges and several county lodges. He advocated strongly the insurance branch of the order and the support of the Orange Sentinel. He said to brothers who had departed this life during the year. He commended the system of propagation followed during the year, which had resulted in the greatest increase of membership in the history of the association. He commended the members upon their energy in erecting new halls and in improving their order. He expressed sympathy with Japan in her struggle with Russia, and sounded a note of warning concerning the arrival in Canada of members of the Orange Association of Rome, who had been expelled from France. He expressed his appreciation of the assistance given him by members of the lodge and a hope that a large number of success might attend their labors in the future. Grand Treasurer H. G. Wadman submitted a financial report which showed a very successful year, more so than any year in their history. The report showed a balance in hand of between fourteen and fifteen hundred dollars. The grand secretary, Nell Morrison of St. John, read his report. He had the honor to present his sixth annual report. At no time had the order been in such a strong position, both numerically and financially. Twelve years have elapsed since they last met in St. Stephen, and many of those then present had received their summons to depart. Let those, therefore, who are left live lives consistent with the high principles of their order. In spite of much misrepresentation, their order is growing stronger year by year, and such a sentiment is being created in its favor that many who formerly held aloof are now one with them in thought and sentiment. Twelve lodges ago there were only three primary lodges working in the county of Charlotte; now there are eight primary lodges, with a membership of over 800. Many important questions are agitating the public of Canada today. He referred to only one, viz., imperial federation. He believed that the great empire builder who has the reputation to take up this question will sooner or later see his object attained. Their order should take up this question and champion it by word and pen, to show their contemporaries in the mother land that they were one with them in maintaining a United British Empire. Ten new primary lodges have been organized since their last meeting in St. Stephen. In addition to the two organized previous to the meeting. Following are the names: Lakeside, No. 127, Fort St. Charles, No. 128, Albert Co.; Eureka, No. 129, Charlotte Co.; Tobique Valley, No. 131, Victoria Co.; Botsford, No. 132, Westmorland Co.; Friendship, No. 133, Charlotte Co.; Wallingford, No. 134, Kent Co.; Blissfield, No. 142, Northumberland Co.; Westmorland, No. 89, Westmorland Co.; Prince of Orange, No. 73, York Co. The following four lodges were re-constituted: Minto, No. 96, Hawkeshaw, York Co.; Union Brothers, No. 137, Star of Hope, No. 140, Elgin, Albert Co.; Benton, No. 98, 16 new, Carleton Co., making a total of 16 new and re-constituted lodges. New Brandon, No. 94, Stonehaven, Gloucester Co., was incorporated, as was Elm Tree, No. 118, Northumberland. This lodge is building a new hall. The following returns have been received: Albert Co., 8 primary lodges and 2 to be chartered; Charlotte Co., 8; Carleton Co., 3; Kent Co., 1; Kings Co., 1; Westmorland Co., 1; York Co., 3 and 1 to be chartered; Gloucester Co., 2; Restigouche Co., 4; Queens Co., 5; and 2 to be chartered. (East, 5 and 2 to be chartered; Queens Co., 5; York Co., 4; St. John Co., 12 and 1 district lodge; Sunbury Co., 4; St. John (West), 6; Westmorland Co., 15; York Co., 3 and 4 to be chartered; York Co., 15; making a total of 121 lodges reported, with 11 to be chartered. The total gain of membership on the year is 705. The grand secretary complained of carelessness of officers in not making prompt returns and suggested that the counties should be authorized to hold the meeting earlier in the fall. Last year has broken the record in the sale of supplies, which shows the association is getting stronger and members more numerous. To celebrate the last annual session, which was the diamond jubilee meeting of the lodge, a report has been drawn up containing photographs of all grand officers. The money set apart for propagation work has aided the executive very much in their work and the list of new and re-constituted lodges bears witness to its benefit to the order. Twenty-five members have died during the year; they extend deep sympathy to the bereaved families. The anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne was suitably celebrated on the 12th of July last. The attention of Grand Lodge was called to the paper, The Sentinel, and its claims upon them put forward. The correspondence had been very heavy; the utmost harmony had prevailed except in two cases, one had been amicably settled, the other case of Lowe v. Lockhart, will be laid before Grand Lodge for judgment. In conclusion, the grand secretary said he read this, his most favorable report, with great pride and trust that their deliberations might be crowned according to their great principles. ST. STEPHEN, March 9.—Grand Orange Lodge met this morning at nine. The committee on correspondence submitted a lengthy report congratulating the Grand Master and Grand Secretary on the splendid reports submitted and on the prosperity of the lodge. The County Master of Restigouche presented a favorable report. An invitation was given to the Grand Lodge to hold its next session at the town of St. Stephen. Regrets were expressed by resolution at the absence of Right Worshipful Brother A. J. Armstrong, through illness. Geo. E. Day of St. John, was named as the chairman of the committee on correspondence. The committee on appeals sustained the appeal of Westmorland County Lodge. St. John county presented an invitation for holding the next session of the Grand Lodge in the city of St. John. The importance of the instrumentalities of the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island a movement has been inaugurated to institute an orphanage for the children of deceased Orangemen and other similar committees from Nova Scotia and P. E. Island in June next. The latter bodies have endorsed the movement and already appointed their committees. The committee consists of R. G. Magee, H. G. Wadman and Rev. A. G. Prosser. The committee on correspondence presented a lengthy report. Among the important sections were: 1. Endorsing the imperial federation scheme as enunciated through Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. 2. Recommending an increase in the salary of the Grand Secretary. 3. Expressing sympathy with the British Empire and its struggle in its struggle with despotic Russia. 4. That Canada is becoming the dumping ground of the Jesuits and other bigoted Roman Catholic orders that have been expelled from France and other Roman Catholic countries is a matter that closely touches this order. Loving freedom as we do, we cannot see the chance that we go to the length of allowing these orders to establish their talons in the dearest institutions of the country. It is the business of this order to see to it that this great wrong be checked before it is too late. We must do this through the medium of fearless speech and action. The committee on constitution recommended that certain committees be permitted to hold their annual session late in the fall instead of in February. The credential committee submitted a report showing over 100 delegates present. The finance committee submitted their report which was taken up section by section. Among the appropriations made and supported were \$100 to the True Blue Orphanage at Pictou, Ont.; \$250 for propagation work; \$80 salary grand treasurer; \$200 salary for grand secretary; \$100 for printing at the evening session. The following were elected Grand Officers for 1904: P. E. Haine, Grand Master, Moncton; H. P. McLeod, Sr., D. G. M., Fredericton; W. S. A. Douglas, Jr., D. G. M., St. Stephen; Rev. A. J. Morrison, Grand Secy., St. John; E. G. Wadman, Grand Treas., Moncton.

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MONCTON MAN SENTENCED. AMHERST, N. S., March 8.—Barry S. Davidson, Charles Davidson and Frank Stevenson, of Moncton, were this morning sentenced to three years each in Dorchester, by Judge Morse, the former for stealing \$100 of property from the wife of J. B. Lambkin, of the I. C. R., from a room in the King Edward Hotel, Halifax, the other two for stealing a lady's fur coat from the Dominion Express train. BEGINS MONDAY. OTTAWA, March 8.—It has been decided to commence the debate on Monday.

IN OTTAWA.

An Important Motion Before Railroad Commission.

Customs Department Thanked by Army Council—A New Senator Appointed.

OTTAWA, March 8.—W. H. Blagden for the Grand Trunk and Darcy Scott for the C. P. R. presented an important motion to the board of railway commissioners today. It was for a declaration from the board, under section 228 of the railway act, that all information contained in notices given by any company pursuant to clause 228 of the act, shall be privileged and shall not be evidence in any court whatsoever. Clause 228 compels every railway company to notify the board of accidents on its line, whereby any person is killed or injured, stating the names of the parties, the number of killed, the extent of injuries received, etc. It is to prevent these statements from being used in courts of law that application was made. The board withheld a decision. Through Lord Strathcona a letter has been received at the department of customs from the secretary of the army council in London, expressing thanks for the liberal donations made by the Canadian government to officers and men of the Imperial force and their families in permitting the entry of supplies for their use duty free.

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