

Bro. King, editor of the Brandon Independent, read Kipling's poem "The Absent-Minded Beggar," which is causing such comment just now. A shilling collection was taken up which realized the sum of about \$15.00.

A rather notable initiation took place on this evening. Harry Lopp, an old British soldier who had been through "Majuba" and "Isundula" joined, to further swell the ranks of the Order in Brandon. Bro. Lopp is a prosperous farmer.

Royal City Lodge, Sons of England Guelph, Ontario, celebrated its eleventh anniversary in a happy fashion. Over one hundred members and their lady friends enjoyed an oyster supper, and a fine programme afterwards. Songs were sung, recitations were given, and patriotic speeches were made by the home and visiting brethren.

The president of Royal City Lodge, Bro. Edward Power, occupied the chair in a most acceptable manner. Speeches were given by Mr. J. W. Brill, Bro. Jesse Welland, of Galt, D.D.; Bro. E. Collyer, and the Second Vice-President of St. George's Society. Capital songs and recitations were offered by Miss Matheson, Miss Lou Bolton, Mr. John Hunter, Mr. W. P. Howard, and an instrumental solo by Mr. E. Bridgeman. The accompaniments were cleverly played by Miss Engeland.

The successful gathering is largely owing to the organized effort of the committee, Bros. J. Broadbent, C. Ryde, E. Power H. Doughty, F. Smith and Harry Bolton. Two marked features of the evening were the speeches by Mr. Brill on his recent trip to England, and Bro. E. Collyer on his experiences in the Klondike.

A Timely Discourse upon the Burning Issues Within the Ranks of the S. O. E.

To the Editor of the ANGLO-SAXON:

Without waiting to ascertain to the full the effect my last liddite shell which doubtless must have deftly dropped plump into the very nest of the Toronto ring doves, it is perhaps as well to hold a little discussion over the agitation caused by the address of the Winnipeg D.C. to the S. G. V.P. on the occasion of his late visit, the same having been made manifest by the squealing of their sycophantic literary menial.

In connection with this same address, it is perfectly just and reasonable to assume had it not been for the precaution taken by the Winnipeg District Council in voting that a copy of it be published in the ANGLO-SAXON, as well as in the Record, it would never have seen the light of day outside the city of its inception.

What better proof of this statement can be found than in the fact that though the one copy was mailed to Toronto and the other to Ottawa, by the Secretary of the Council, both at the same time, the SAXON's appeared in the Sept. issue, while that of the Record was not forthcoming till the following month, and then with the excuse that it was

received too late for earlier publication.

As a preliminary to a little wholesome talk with the readers of the SAXON, let us quote the same passage in the address which the S. O. E. Record has taken for its text:—

"Our necessities have time and again been brought before Supreme Grand Lodge, both in and out of Session, only to be filed away for all time, and our requests regarding representation at S. G. L. meetings have been wholly ignored." What is their reply to this? They do not deny the statement of fact but blandly seek to explain away their shortcomings by a wearisome tirade concerning their tender solicitude on behalf of the Winnipeg brethren, and tell of the great efforts being made by proxies in their behalf for the last three years. Now in regard to the value of proxy representation something must be said.

Men are recommended to our lodges for proxies who are members of Eastern lodges, some of them most probably members of the Executive Council whose interest it is to keep things in statu quo, the result has been that in no case has a proxy member of any Winnipeg lodge rendered an account of his stewardship; nothing is heard of Grand Lodge proceedings by the lodges till members receive the Grand Lodge Report, they never know whether their delegate voted for, or against, their wishes, or indeed if he voted at all.

How absurd, then, to try to placate the Western brethren with such a venal and inefficient substitute for personal representation. It appears to us in the West that our Ontario brethren, or the most of them, are centred within a very prescribed ring fence, say some two hundred miles around the city of Toronto; they seem to have no idea of the enormous area of space which goes to make up their heritage as English Canadians.

For the reason that most of them can attend Grand Lodge, if they so desire, for a trifling money cost of a very few dollars, they seem to imply the outside brethren whose expenses in some cases might reach even a hundred dollars, should be kept away altogether, they being quite content so long as the Utlanders pay their dues in and help to keep up the S. G. Executive. If the distant brethren are not able to bear the whole cost of their fare that seems none of their business. Such sentiments as these are surely not calculated to build up a great and powerful society such as the Sons of England might, and should be; a society not only as wide-reaching as the whole of this great Dominion, but capable of exercising its benign influence in every part of the British Empire.

But a much more liberal sentiment will have to prevail in Ontario, both amongst the brethren of the Order and their Executive, before any improvements may be expected in the direction of expansion of the Order.

"General community of interests" must be the motto. The PERSONAL representation of Grand Lodge of the distant sub lodges by delegates from amongst their membership is a demand that can be no longer got over by soft words, or by a tyrannical assumption of unconstitutional authority on the part of the S. G. Executive.