

## CHAPTER LI

### FRATERNAL SOCIETIES IN SASKATCHEWAN

EARLY RISE OF FRATERNAL SOCIETIES—ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS: KINISTINO LODGE, 1879; WASCANA LODGE, 1883; GRAND LODGE OF SASKATCHEWAN, 1906—INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS: MOOSE JAW LODGE, 1883; SUBSEQUENT RAPID DEVELOPMENT—ORANGE ASSOCIATION—LEADING CATHOLIC ORDERS—OTHER FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

The means of social intercourse are valued by no one more highly than by the man who for a period not too long has been deprived of them. It is not surprising then that tents had scarcely given way to "shacks" in our western settlements when fraternal societies of all sorts commenced to spring up in luxuriant growth. Indeed, the development of these institutions faithfully reflects that of the Province in the other many fields to which this book has been chiefly devoted. In obedience to the expressed wish of many prominent citizens, therefore, this closing chapter is to be devoted to a brief record of a few outstanding facts bearing on the rise of some of the chief great fraternal orders.

The first such society to establish itself in the North West was the world-famous order of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. For a time the activities of the order were almost confined to Manitoba, but as early as 1879, on the 28th of March, a group of Masons resident at or near Prince Albert Mission met in the old store of the Hudson's Bay Company to discuss the propriety of applying for a dispensation establishing a local lodge. A petition was in due course presented to the Grand Lodge of Canada and on May 22, 1879, the necessary dispensation was granted for the creation of Kinistino Lodge, Prince Albert. This lodge is therefore entitled to claim seniority in point of age over all others in what is now the Province of Saskatchewan.

The first officers of Kinistino Lodge were Brother C. F. Young, W. M.; Brother J. McKenzie, S. W., and Brother G. R. Duch, J. W., and the other brethren signing the petition of application for the creation of the lodge were Brothers Charles Mair, John Frederick Kennedy, Joseph M. Coombes, A. E. Porter, Edward Stanley, George Tait and John L. Reid. It may be interesting to members of the craft to know that the first degrees con-