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# STEER BROTHERS.

#### Order of Elks Instituted Fifty Years Ago.

There is much of romance, sociability and good fellowship in connection with the founding of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America. In these latter years B. P. O. E. has come to mean in the popular mind Best People on Earth, and it is as such perhaps that members of the order like to be known.

The order of Elks owes its existence and its name to Charles Algeron Sidney Vivian, an Englishman and son of a preacher. Vivian landed on these shores November 15, 1867. He was an actor and his first engagement was at Butler's American Theater, New York city.

Vivian was a convivial soul, and his boarding house was a popular gathering place for theatrical folks. Hardly a Sunday passed without a big meeting and rally of the thespians. Sometimes there were mid-weekly sessions as well.

As the fame of those meetings spread their popularity increased, so much so that it was decided finally to organize a club. Committees were named, a tentative society formed and Vivian was placed at its head. At first it was confined to actors, but soon writers, artists and others began to be included in the circle.

With the growth of the club it was decided that a more suitable name than any which had been suggested should be selected and a committee was named for that purpose. On February 16, 1868, the committee reported and submitted the "Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and Buffaloes." There were fifteen present at the committee meeting at which decision was to be made.

Seven voted for the name "Elks." The other seven favored "Buffaloes." Vivian's name was the last on the list to vote. He cast his ballot for "Elks," and that is how the wonderful organization came into existence.

Up to 1899 the order had two degrees, one, the first, designated as "Elks," and the second as "Devout Elders." They had separate passwords, words of recognition as well as handicaps. These degrees were abolished at the 1899 session of the Grand Lodge.

In 1868 Vivian was elected Right Honorable Primo, which was then the same as Grand Exalted Ruler to-day. The story of the Elks reads like a romance. At the end of the first year it had seventy-nine members, and one lodge, New York, No. 1, the mother lodge of Elksdom, which to-day has a magnificent home, club and temple on Forty-third street, just east of Broadway. On March 12, 1870, Elksdom began its country-wide spread. On that date a charter was granted to Philadelphia Lodge, No. 2. That year also saw the election of the first Grand Exalted Ruler. He was Brother George J. Green, and when the title was first given to the office he was the Right Honorable Primo of the single body of Elks.

Death entered the ranks of the order for the first time in 1870, also. Two members passed away, and the



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first "Lodge of Sorrow" in Elksdom's history took place March 20, 1870, in Clarendon Hall.

The B. P. O. Elks consisted of two lodges until 1876. On June 11 of that year the Grand Lodge, meeting in New York, went across the continent and granted a charter to San Francisco Lodge, No. 3. Chicago was the fourth city to have a lodge, and since that time it has grown with tremendous activity. To-day the Order of Elks has nearly 1,400 lodges in every State in the Union and in most of the territorial possessions, and the antlered heard numbers about 700,000 members. It is one of the really great fraternities of the country.

Representatives from the subordinate lodges meet once each year in Grand Lodge sessions, at which national policies of the organization are shaped. Requirements for admission have been changed from time to time, but there are three essentials. The first is American citizenship, the second a belief in a Supreme Being and the third, good moral character. The Elks recognize no creed or sect; no race except that its members must be white, and the order is nonpolitical. It is the only fraternal organization recognizing Flag Day, June 14, the anniversary of the birth of the American flag, and it makes paramount the principles of Americanism, patriotism and the four cardinal ideals of the order, charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity. It is only natural, in view of those whose originally formed the Elks, that nearly all actors and other professional performers should be included in its membership. That is one reason why gatherings of its members are always enjoyable.

But while the Elks make much of the social life and sociability, it is even more than a mere social body. It is a tremendous force in the life of the country and an organization that regards its obligations as sacred as duty to country, love of home, and maintenance of freedom and institutions under the Constitution. Growth of the order has brought

with it a magnificent national home in Bedford, Va. Here an Elk may pass his declining years in the company of his fellows, or if unable to care for himself he will receive the best of medical attention. It is a real home and is for every Elk, no matter what his circumstances. There is a spacious lodge room, magnificent sleeping rooms and apartments, library, immense dining room, and the appointments of a hotel or club and home. There are wide sweeps of lawn, groves and drives. It is just another phase of the greater Elksdom that is so appealing—Charleston American.

#### Household Notes.

Garnish beet bouillon with a dash of unsweetened whipped cream. The cream may be slightly salted.

Cheese is nice thinly sliced and then cut with a large French vegetable cutter, and served on a silver dish.

Carpets may be brightened with common house paint thinned with gasoline and applied with a brush or cloth.

Loose skirt panels fall to the heels, giving the irregular hem line.



#### A Strong Man Gone.

One of the pillars of stable government in Great Britain has been removed through the retirement of the Rt. Hon. Bonar Law whom falling health has compelled to leave the Government, and if he remains for a time in public life it will be more as an onlooker than as a participant in the strenuous work of governing. His retirement is a great loss to his former colleagues in the Coalition Government, a great loss to Great Britain and to the Empire.

Trained to business and with many years' experience in administering large affairs, he brought to public life, and especially to the work of governing, a practical directness that grasped at once the essentials of the problems presented and the work at hand. His well-balanced Scottish head and his thorough training in the matter-of-fact world of industry and commerce enabled him to see things as they are, and to measure means needed to produce desired results.

He was thoroughly honest in the broadest sense. He never attempted to deceive the nation by theatrical action or flowery speech. As he saw the facts, so he presented them, and the conclusions he arrived at he stood by with the unflinching courage of a patriotic public man, who placed before all else the welfare of his country.

His public career has been long, for it was in the year 1900 that he first entered the House of Commons, and during many of the intervening years he held high offices in the public service—Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Privy Seal, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

When it became necessary to form a Coalition Ministry in order to concentrate upon the prosecution of the war all the material and moral strength of Great Britain, Bonar Law took office under the leadership of a former political opponent, and to that leader he gave undivided loyalty and most efficient service. Those years of toil and anxiety undermined his

health and compelled the present retirement.

Canada has a special claim upon Bonar Law, for the village of Rexton, in Kent County, New Brunswick, was his birthplace. His father was the Rev. James Law, a minister of the

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#### How the Color Seas Were Named

There are several large seas which were named for their colors. The White Sea bears its name with perhaps the best reason of any. Its shores are covered with snow the greater part of the year, and its frozen surface is for that time a snowy plain.

The Red Sea is also entitled to its name. Through its clear waters the reefs or red coral are clearly to be seen. Much of its rocky bed is the growth of the coral insect. Another reason, and probably the true one, is the name of this sea, is the fact that along its shores lies ancient Eden. This name signifies red.

In the case of the Yellow Sea its name is sufficiently accounted for from the appearance of its water. The sea receives a great deal of mud from the rivers of China, moreover, it is shallow, and the sandy bottom gives its own color a long way out from the shore.

The Black Sea affords no clear account of its name. The waters are not black, but blue. The Greeks, when they first became acquainted with the sea, called it by a name which signifies The Inhospitable. Later they changed it to the Hospitable. This change of name that upon further acquaintance the Greek sailors found the waters friendly. But the Greeks were inclined to give soft and flattering names to the objects of their dread, and that may be what they did in this particular case. The Greek name holds to this day among the older nations of Europe. The Russian calls the sea Black. It seems likely that this name was suggested by contrast. The sea lies south of Russia, as the White Sea lies to the north. Had the latter been called the North Sea, the Hospitable of the Greeks might have been named by the Russians South Sea. In the same way Black Sea was named in contrast to the White Sea.

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