

Hall, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: C. C., W. D. Kinnaird; V. C., E. C. Smith; Prel., J. G. Hilton; M. of E., J. T. Pearce; M. of T., E. A. Leason; K. of R. & S., E. P. Nathan; M. of A., J. McBride; M. of W., P. A. Phillips. Judging from the number of applications received, Victoria Lodge means to retain her position as being the banner lodge of the Domain of B.C. The rank of Page was conferred on one candidate.

The members of Victoria and Far West lodges K. of P., on June 18th held their annual memorial services. Gathering at Castle Hall at 2 p.m. they took part in a short service conducted by Past Grand Chancellor J. M. Hughes, at the conclusion of which they marched to Ross Bay cemetery, preceded by several hacks loaded with floral offerings. The flowers were placed on the graves of the following deceased members of the Order: Richard Hunter, George Frye, A. A. Green, George Etheredge, J. D. Carmichael, J. Slater, W. Byers, Squire Hilton, J. Sheedy, J. P. Matthews, Fred Randolph, Dave Fee, John Fee, Frank Campbell, Peter Wilson, M. Hooper and H. A. Levin.

FROM NANAIMO.

At a recent regular meeting of Nanaimo Lodge Knights of Pythias the following were elected for the ensuing year: C. C., Peter Gordon; V. C., E. B. Irving; Prelate, A. Manifold; M. of W., A. Turner; M. of E., H. Devlin; M. of F., Chas. Wilson; K. of R. & S., Chas. Rawlinson; I. G., Jas. Watson; O. G., Henry McAdie.

Pythian Memorial Day.

Editor "Free Press." The beautiful ceremony of decorating the graves of departed brothers was held by the various Pythian lodges in the district on June 25th.

Sir, hearing a remark on the street of our city that it was only a show, this decorating of graves by our orders, I was made to ask, is it true, and the reply came: Go to yonder grave on the hillside as the last sad rites are performed, over the earthly remains of a dear brother; tenderly loving hands lower him into the cold, unsympathetic earth, gently but it seems harshly the unfeeling clay falls with sickening thuds upon the last residence of the dead, each stroke seems a death blow on the broken heart of the widowed wife and mother, standing with tear stained face at the grave edge. Ah! hope, all joy, life itself seems buried in that awful tomb; but around it is the circle of plighted knights, and as the sprig of evergreen drops into the grave, we hear renewed pledges of fidelity to the dead, fall from each member present.

And is this all a mere shadow, an idle ceremony, a hollow mockery? God forbid! Breathes there a man in this broad land who doubts our sincerity? Little does he comprehend us and ill advisedly does he speak. Let him but hear the echo from within our castle walls, as we view the vacant chair and miss the warm grasp of those brothers' hands who are gone from our ranks, then let him ask himself is it only show. I answer no, verily, no.

Our sacred rites and ceremonies are impressive and sincere. Let us aim to build these principles into our lives, making them a con-

sistent element of our daily conduct, for truly, faith without works is dead.

The following are the names of those who occupy the graves to be decorated:

Wellington Lodge, No. 2.

P. C.'s R. Robinson, J. B. L. Jones and A. Paton. Knights J. Jones, J. J. Stewart, John McNeill, J. Hamilton, C. Hoskins, J. J. Williams, J. Mellitto, C. Loat, J. McMillan, R. Craig.

Nanaimo Lodge, No. 4.

Knights John Aitken, J. C. Jones, P. Cameron, G. C. Meritt, Geo. Blakaway, W. D. Griffith and Wm. James.

Damon Lodge, No. 8.

Knights B. Enotridge, Evan Millart and Robert Scott.

Myrtle Lodge, No. 9.

P. C. W. Pool. Black Diamond, No. 27 (Ohio); James Hunt, Black Diamond, No. 17, Wash.; Alex. Marshall, Carbon Hill, No. 25, Wash.; Jas. Braddy, Brendwood, Ill.; J. Morton, Hercules, No. 22, Col.; D. Gordon, Shawnee, No. 17, Ohio; J. F. Harvey, Comox, No. 5, B. C.; J. McArthur, Snowy Range, No. 5, Col.; J. Farnham, Carthage, No. 16, N. Mexico; W. Arbuckle, Excelsior, No. 19, Ind., and E. Madden.

I am glad to be able to state that since our last Memorial Day we have not been called to mourn for any of our brethren in our local lodges.

DAVID MOFFAT.

June 18th, 1899.

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