

fourths were to be devoted to the Fund of Benevolence and one-fourth to the 'Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

In this year—1873—on the 5th of November, the two Lodges in Nanaimo, Nanaimo No. 3 and Caledonia No. 6, agreed to amalgamate, and their request to be allowed to do so was granted by Grand Lodge on the 8th of December, 1873, and at the same time the name of the Lodge was changed to Ashlar, the number of Nanaimo Lodge being retained.

Some objection having been made to the date of meeting of Grand Lodge, no Annual communication was held in 1874, but an emergent Communication was held at Nanaimo on the 21st of October of that year to lay the corner stone of the new Masonic Hall at that place.

Although this is called a special Communication of Grand Lodge, it does not appear that Grand Lodge was opened at all. The Grand Master opened Ashlar Lodge and laid the corner stone, after which he surrendered the gavel to the Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge, who conferred the first degree on a candidate. When this had been done the Lodge was called to refreshment to partake of the inevitable banquet, after which labour was resumed and the Lodge drank the healths of the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Grand Master, and of anyone else whose name happened to occur to them.

At this meeting, whether one of Grand Lodge or Ashlar Lodge, the announcement was made that the Grand Lodge of England had extended recognition to the new Grand Lodge.

Affairs Masonic proceeded uneventfully until the meeting of Grand Lodge in February, 1878, the Craft holding its own, but no material advance being made. At this Communication it was announced that the four Lodges in Victoria had amalgamated into two—Victoria and British Columbia Lodges uniting to form Victoria-Columbia, No. 1, and Vancouver and Quadra Lodges joining to make Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2.

Various Grand Masters during these years had urged the erection of a Masonic building in Victoria, but although the project invariably received the approval of the different committees to which it was referred, no active move appears to have been made in the matter until 1877, when a Building Association was formed with a capital of ten thousand dollars, and in July of that year two lots were purchased on the corner of Douglas and Fisguard streets, the price being one thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars. The property was deeded to the Grand Master in trust and subsequently conveyed to the Craft by a trust deed. A contract was let for the building at eight thousand, five hundred and twenty-eight dollars, and it was expected that the building would be finished and ready for dedication on June 24th, 1878. Matters did not advance so rapidly as was expected, however, and it was not until April 22nd, 1878, that the corner stone of the new building was laid, the dedication not taking place until the 28th of October in the same year. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the cost considerably exceeded the contract price.

In 1879 another change in the time of meeting of Grand Lodge was made, the date being altered from February to June.

Although application had been made to the Grand Lodge of Scotland for recognition immediately upon the formation of Grand Lodge, that Grand Lodge for some reason, but in a manner quite consistent