

Nixon, Junior General; W. R. Harris, Treasurer; R. J. Hovenden, Recorder; J. P. Purvis, Prefect; J. K. Kerr and W. M. Jamieson, Committee.

THE use of the ballot is of high antiquity; even profane history records that it was used in the time of Lycurgus, little more than a century after the building of King Solomon's Temple. The method of using the ballot then, was to take a small ball of soft bread in the hand, and drop it, *without saying a word*, into a certain vessel. If the voter approved the candidate, he did not alter the shape of the ball; but if he disapproved him, he pressed it flat, and a flattened ball was a negative vote, and rejected the candidate. The ballot, it has been well said, is the Tyler of the Masonic Lodge.

WATERLOO R. A. CHAPTER, GALT, ONT.—On the 15th ult. the following officers were installed and invested by R. E. Comp. R. Brierley and E. Comp. J. J. Mason, Past First Principals of St. John's Chapter, Hamilton: E. Comps. Joseph S. Perine, Z.; Adam Cranston, H.; James M. Hood, J.; Comps. Wm. Baraclough, Scribe E.; C. O. Sizer, Scribe N.; R. H. McMillan, Prin. Soj.; J. A. Harris and E. J. Wilkins, Assistant Soj.; A. H. Kay, M. Williams, and A. Taylor, Masters of the Veils; John Ferguson, Treasurer; and Angus Kennedy, Janitor. After the installation ceremony, the visiting companions were very hospitably entertained at Comp. Williams' Hotel.

THE first Grand Lodge in England was formed in 1717, and the Duke of Montague was the first Grand Master. At that time there were four lodges in existence in London; they were not designated by either name or number, but were distinguished by the name or sign of the tavern in which they met, viz., 1. At the Goose and Gridiron; 2. At the Crown; 3. At the Apple Tree Tavern; 4. At the Rummer and Grapes Tavern. The members of the four bodies came together at the Apple Tree Tavern. In 1781 there were 261 lodges on the roll.

THE following striking coincidence occurred in the history of Lodge No. 3, of this city. It celebrated St. John's Day, 1777, by a dinner at Bro. Daniel Smith's City Tavern, corner of Second and Gold Streets. At this dinner exactly *thirteen* members participated; they had *thirteen* dishes of meat on the table; they drank *thirteen* toasts and sang *thirteen* songs; *thirteen* bottles of wine and *thirteen* bowls of toddy disappeared; the reckoning was *thirteen* pounds; and they spent *thirteen* hours, viz., from eight in the morning until nine in the evening, in the greatest harmony and good humor—which caused it to be remarked that it might be considered emblematical of the union of the friends of humanity and freedom in the then *thirteen* States.—*Philadelphia Keystone*.

DEDICATION AT SEAFORTH.—The dedication of the new Masonic Hall of Britannia Lodge, No. 170, Seaforth, took place on the evening of the 3rd March. The ceremony was arranged to have taken place in the afternoon, but owing to the Grand Trunk Railway being blocked up so as to prevent the running of trains further than Stratford, it had to be postponed, as the Grand Officers were under the necessity of driving through the worst snow storm of the season in sleighs from Stratford to Seaforth, a distance of about thirty miles. The ceremony was conducted by R. W. Acting-Grand Master, J. K. Kerr; R. W. Bros. J. J. Mason, Grand Secretary; R. P. Stephens, D. D. G. M., Toronto District; Bro. Fraser, P. G. R.; Otto Klotz, P. D. D. G. M., Preston; V. W. Bro. John Gibson, G. S.; R. W. Bro. J. H. Benson, D. D. G. M. Huron District. Several brethren attended from the neighboring lodges, and a number of ladies were also present. The *Huron Expositor* says: The ceremony being ended, the ladies and non-members of the Craft retired, after which the lodge was opened in the first degree and an initiation performed by the Worshipful Master, and witnessed by the Grand Officers. The hall was beautifully decorated with appropriate paintings and pictures, and being well lit up, presented a most gorgeous appearance. The lodge and ante-rooms are all carpeted and neatly furnished, and the members of Britannia Lodge have just cause to feel proud of their handsome and comfortable premises. At the conclusion of labor in the lodge room the brethren repaired to the hall of the Commercial Hotel, where they were joined by a number of friends who do not belong to the Order, and all sat down to a sumptuous repast, provided for them by the genial and competent host of the Commercial, Mr. Davidson. This hall also was beautifully and tastefully decorated by mottoes, banners and pictures. The chair was taken by Bro. H. L. Vercoe, Worshipful Master of Britannia Lodge, and the vice-chair by Brother Coleman, both of whom discharged their duties with their accustomed ability. On the right of the chairman was seated the Grand Master, and on the left Worshipful Brother Klotz, one of the fathers of Masonry in Canada. On either side of these sat the other members of Grand Lodge present. Toasts, songs and speeches followed each other in rapid succession until an early hour in the morning. After having spent a most pleasant and sociable evening the company concluded by singing "Auld Lang Syne." In justice to the officers and members of Britannia Lodge, and especially to the Worshipful Master, we must make mention of the highly complimentary remarks indulged in by the Grand Officers regarding the working of the lodge. The Grand Master was especially pro-