

NEW WESTMINSTER FIRE.

On the night of 10th day of September, the beautiful City of New Westminster was visited with an awful calamity. In the stillness of night the alarm of fire was heard, and before the Fire Department had reached the scene the fire had gained such headway by the wind, which was blowing a gale at the time, which soon spread, consuming the entire business portion of the city, together with a part of the residential portion. To appreciate the vast destruction wrought by the fire it would be necessary for one to visit the scene of the disaster. By the fire hundreds have been made homeless and destitute. All the fraternal societies are sufferers.

We learn, however, that Royal Lodge and Granite Lodge carried insurance on their Lodge furniture and paraphernalia, so that to some extent the loss is not so severe as at first supposed. Individual members of the Order, however, have suffered, in some cases their all being swept away by the conflagration. Generous aid and relief have been spontaneous and ample. The lodges and members of the Order in the Domain contributed liberally when the news of the disaster reached them. The Knights of Victoria donated and sent immediately a check for \$100. The City lodges of Vancouver sent a committee consisting of P. S. R., Bro. C. L. Behnson; P. G. C., Bro. J. E. Evans; P. C., Bro. J. H. Grady, and Brothers Jno. McAllister and A. M. Tyson, placing in their hands \$150 to be used by them as their judgment dictated in the relief of those brothers who had suffered through the fire. This is as it should be, and we are glad to record that the Knights outvied each other as to who could do the most good. Our Order in this Domain are under lasting obligations to the Brother Knights of the Domain of Washington, who by their generous offer of aid and letters of tender sympathy prove themselves true Knights.

The Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Bro. Pferdner, received a communication from the Grand Chancellor, of Washington, tendering his sympathy and service in no uncertain terms.

Below will be found a copy of a letter from the Grand Chancellor, of Washington, to our Brother:

Seattle, Wash. Sept. 13th, 1898.

Emil Pferdner, G. K. R. & S., Victoria, B. C.:

Knightly Sir and Brother.—I have heard with profound regret of the terrible disaster by fire that has come to our British Columbia brethren, and it has just occurred to me that it may be possible that the Knights of Washington may be able to do something for their brothers in trouble.

I know full well that your lodges there will take the matter up, and of course our members are giving freely to the general fund being sent north, but if it should appear that there is need of special assistance to members of our Order at New Westminster I should be glad to have you advise me, and I will take steps to enlist the active interest of the Washington brothers in their relief.

In the meantime will you not accept through me the most cordial assurances of sympathy from the membership of this Grand Domain to the homeless and houseless brothers of New Westminster.

Fraternally yours in F., C. & B.,

(Signed), E. WELDON YOUNG,
Grand Chancellor,

Grand Domain of Washington.

The Committee having in charge the distribution of the funds so generously donated by the different lodges in the Domain, have not made their report, so that we are not able to say at this date just what funds are required, but we think that from the evidence already to hand, that sufficient funds are available to meet all requirements.

The names of the committee appointed in New Westminster on the fire relief, are as follows:

From Royal Lodge, No. 6—M. W. Minthorn, John Peek, Geo. Blakeley.

From Granite Lodge, No. 16—W. N. Draper, J. M. Murray, F. P. Maxwell, (Secretary).

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"With gates of silver and bars of gold
Ye have fenced my sheep from their Father's
fold ;

I have heard the dropping of their tears
In heaven these eighteen hundred years."

"Oh Lord and Master, not ours the guilt,
We build but as our fathers built ;
Behold thine images, how they stand,
Sovereign and sole, through all our land."

Then Christ sought out an artisan,
A low-bowed, stunted, haggard man,
And a motherless girl, whose fingers thin
Pushed from her faintly want and sin.

These set he in the midst of them,
And as they drew back their garment hem
For fear of defilement, "Lo, here," said he,
"The images ye have made of me!"
—James Russell Lowell.

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Rathbone Lodge, No. 7, was glad to welcome back to the city and Lodge, Bro. Harry J. Austie, S. R. to the Supreme Lodge, and M. of E. of Rathbone. Harry is always missed when not in attendance at the regular sessions of Rathbone. His letter of interest in the proceedings of the Supreme Lodge will be appreciated by the Knights throughout the Domain.

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