

PETITIONS.

I received a petition to the Grand Lodge from New Westminster Lodge, No. 3, to be allowed to change its name to Royal City Lodge, No. 3, which is hereby submitted for your consideration.

APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL AID.

In consequence of the disastrous fire at New Westminster on 19th September last, and after having communicated with the brethren of that City as to their needs, I felt that it was a case where the jurisdiction should be asked to promptly render assistance, and accordingly, on the 22nd of September, I issued the following appeal:

GRAND LODGE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, F. O. O. F.

OFFICE OF GRAND MASTER.

VICTORIA, B. C., September, 22nd, 1899.

*To the Lodges subordinate to the Grand Lodge of British Columbia,
F. O. O. F.;*

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:—You are doubtless aware of the great disaster which befel the City of New Westminster on the 19th inst., by which it was almost destroyed by fire. As might be expected in such a general calamity, the Lodges and individual members of our Order have been heavy losers.

The imposing Odd Fellows' Hall and the Records, Regalia, Furniture and other effects of the Grand Encampment, the three Subordinate Lodges, the Rebekah Lodge and the Subordinate Encampment were, with trifling exceptions, completely consumed.

It is estimated that at least one-half of the members of the Lodges, residing in the City, have to some extent, been personal sufferers, and in many cases, I am sorry to state, have lost all they possessed.

In such a time of widespread distress, it appears, to me to be fit and proper that the Lodges of this jurisdiction should be appealed to for fraternal aid and assistance on behalf of these unfortunate brothers, and I do therefore confidently ask that you will both cheerfully and liberally respond for their relief.