

The gold excitement, and perhaps other reasons drew a number of Americans to Victoria, and among them naturally a number of Freemasons. These, being unacquainted with the work practiced by Victoria Lodge, desired to organize one which would use the American work, and proposed to apply, if they did not actually apply, to the Grand Lodge of Washington for a dispensation. This did not suit the Brethren of Victoria Lodge, who held that as this was a British Colony it was a close preserve for the use of the British Grand Lodges, and on the 24th of January, 1861, the Lodge passed the following resolution:—

Whereas, we have been informed that a party in this community have applied to the Grand Lodge of Washington Territory for a Dispensation or Warrant to organize a Lodge of F. & A. M. in this town, it is, therefore,

RESOLVED. That while we hail the Grand Lodge of Washington Territory and all other Grand Lodges as Brethren and Masons, we do not recognize their power to grant Dispensations or Warrants out of the district of their own country, and all Dispensations and Warrants emanating from any other source than the Grand Lodges of the mother country in this place and we shall hold as clandestine, and all Masons visiting such Lodges cannot be recognized as Masons.

This discouraged the applicants and the petition was withdrawn, but shortly afterwards a number of Brethren decided to apply to the Grand Lodge of Scotland for a Warrant and asked Victoria Lodge to recommend their petition. The request was received by Victoria Lodge on the 15th of May, 1862, and was granted, the Brethren being careful, however, to preserve the precedence of the Grand Lodge of England, as may be seen by the tenor of the following resolution:—

That the Victoria Lodge No. 1085 cordially responds to the petition of the Brethren desirous to establish a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Scotland; but in doing so, they reserve the precedence of the Grand Lodge of England in general Masonic affairs within the colony, and they communicate this resolution to the Grand Lodge of England as a matter of record.

In due course a Warrant was granted, dated and on the 20th of October, 1862, a meeting was held in the Hall of Victoria Lodge to organize the new Lodge, which was known as Vancouver Lodge No. 421 on the Scotch Registry. The charter members present at this meeting were:

Brothers William Jeffery,
Sam Goldstone,
J. R. Stewart,
A. Scorgie,
A. Blackman,
T. S. Allett,
Morris Meyer, and
R. J. McDonnell.

The first officers of the Lodge were

Brother Wm. Jeffery..... R. W. Master
S. Goldstone..... Senior Warden
Alex. Cain..... Junior Warden

The last-named being absent, was installed by proxy.