

The True Knight of British Columbia.

"The true Knight does no Man wrong."

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Address all communications to P. O. Box 313.

J. E. EVANS,

Secretary,

Vancouver, B. C.

G. R. MAXWELL,

Editor.

VANCOUVER, FEBRUARY, 1899.

A NEW TERM.

When this number of the True Knight reaches all the lodges, new officers will have been installed, and a new term will be in active operation. Let us endeavor to improve the occasion. One of the main features associated with the old and the new term is that we have certain reports presented bearing on our numerical and financial strength, which no lover of Pythianism should let pass without weighing carefully their significance. The business man through his books knows whether he is prospering or not prospering—knows whether he is going forward or backwards, and so the reports presented to us by your officers indicate to such lodge whether it is in a healthy or unhealthy condition. The duty of each member then is to see or to know just how matters stand, and to do whatever he can to improve things all round. Let us look at the question of finance. We say a man is prospering when he is adding

to his bank account, and we think also that a lodge is in good condition if it has a large surplus on hand. With lodges as with men, some no doubt will have added, and some will have an empty exchequer. To the last we say do not be discouraged. To have nothing left after paying all just accounts is no sign of weakness or lack of vitality. In fact an empty treasury may be one of the best signs which any body of men can have, that they have nobly performed their duty. While it is no doubt pleasing to the members of a lodge to know that they have several hundred of dollars laid by, yet that simply means fewer services rendered, and fewer brethren helped. A lodge that has given out all that it has taken in can point with pride to those whom it has comforted, blessed and helped in sickness and in weakness. We say again, be not discouraged. Money with us is only a means to an end. We get it, not that we may keep or hoard it, but that we may dedicate it to the services of friendship, charity and benevolence. Our honor lies not in the amount of money we possess, but in the amount of good deeds that we can do, and the lodge that can and does perform the greatest number of these, is the richest lodge we have in our domain.

Again at the beginning of a new term we are brought face to face with the state of our membership. In a general way, we may say, some lodges will have increased their membership, others will have decreased. That is a matter of grave importance, and should demand the best attention we can give it. While it is true that a lodge may be really stronger with fifty good members than with seventy-five luke-warm ones, yet numbers have a magnetic influence. The danger is that if we begin to decrease, it may continue. If a lodge is not continually adding good men and true, it is not growing, it is not extending its sphere of influence, and the likelihood is that a sort of dry rot may get in among the few, the end of which is not hard to divine. Our duty is to grow—to go on increasing. That means continued interest and continued work. Nothing so much conduces to keep things humming as initiations. Such bring members out and give them something to do. Team work enthruses, and drives away the spirit of indifference. Whereas, if your lodge is not initiating, the life wanes and flickers on night of meeting, members say there is nothing on, we'll go somewhere else, and so the interest grows gradually less and less, until the brother who in normal conditions would have proved an energetic brother finds himself in arrears, and out of touch with Pythian life and work. Let a new term mean new work, new efforts to increase our membership. Pythianism is not as strong in B. C. as it ought to be. There is a splendid field everywhere for the energetic followers of Pythias. Let us see to it that this term will chronicle a Pythian revival in all