

BRITONS, HOLD YOUR OWN.

Keat Lodge, No. 3, S. O. E. S., Anniversary Banquet.

(Communicated by Bro. Wm. Barker.)

The anniversary of the above lodge was held on Thursday evening, October 24th, at Chivrell's Dining Hall, Toronto. Amongst the numerous guests and friends was noticed the following:— E. F. Clarke, Mayor of Toronto; Bro. Ald. G. F. Frankland, Bro. Ald. F. Moses, ex-Ald. Bro. W. Millichamp, Ald. J. C. Swait, S.G.P., R. Ivens, S.G.V.P., R. Caddick, P.G.P., T. R. Skippon, P. G. P., Lieut.-Col. G. T. Dennison, G.G.B.G., Edmund E. Sheppard, H. K. Cockin, Geo. Tyler, Commander-in-chief, S.O.E. Naval Brigade, Jas. Lomas, P. G. P., J. Lister Nichols, President Chesterfield Lodge, E. A. Axworthy, President Middlesex Lodge, J. D. Young, V. P. Mercantile Lodge, Fred. Packham, President Brighton Lodge, S. Hine, District Deputy, (East Toronto) and Dr. Norman Allan.

After the toast of the Queen had been duly honored, Bro. J. L. Nichols proposed.

"The Supreme Grand Lodge." In responding, Ald. J. C. Swait, S.G.P. referred at some length to the satisfactory progress of the Order of the Sons of England in the province, and mentioned the significance of three new lodges being opened in Hamilton in one night during the last week. Referring to the attitude of the United States towards Canada he said, "Mr. McKinley is trying to coerce this country into annexation with a country that we disapprove of. But if Mr. McKinley wants to act the part of the whale, we do not want to act the part of Jonah. (Loud cheers.) When the time comes I think that he will find the people of this country ready, as are the Sons of England, to stick right loyally to the Mother Country." (Applause.)

R. Ivens, S.G.V.P. followed and said that in a short time the Order of the S. O. E. would girdle the earth. In speaking of the annexation question, he appealed to the Sons of England, if the time should ever arrive for action, to save Canada from the wolves, whose consciences are their maws.

T. R. Skippon, P.G.P., in supporting the toast advocated Englishmen taking a share in the good things of the world, in the Dominion Parliament, the legislatures and the municipal councils. (Applause.) Their numerical strength and patriotism demanded of them to take this responsibility. (Loud applause.)

The President next proposed "The Military and Naval Forces of the Empire."

Lieut.-Col. G. T. Denison responded. He said: The toast of the military and naval forces of the empire is one that I might deal with on the lines laid down in the speech of the worthy chairman who proposed it, but if you will bear with me I would like to treat it a little differently than it is usually treated.

We are all Canadians. The present is a time when as sons of England and as Canadians both may take a look over the state of affairs at present existing. I wish to carry you back, in order that it may teach a lesson to us for the future, to the time of Queen Elizabeth's reign in England, when England had a population about as large as Canada has at the present time, when she had no foreign trade, no standing army and only a small navy. England was then carrying on her trade with her neighbors. Now, there occurred two events in the early part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth which exercised an important influence on the people of England, and in the end led to the power and greatness of the country. One thing was the discovery of new countries, which opened the people's eyes, and another thing which had a most important influence was the Reformation. Before the Reformation the people of England were obliged to eat fish, and when they got freedom they would not touch it. (Applause and laughter.) The fishing trade of England was then an important trade, and the result was that the Reformation threw the fishermen out of employment. That caused great anxiety among English statesmen at the time. They passed an Act of Parliament, but with all they could do the English people would not eat fish. (Laughter.) The result was that the hardy fishermen were thrown out of employment and they turned their attention to trade abroad. They traded with that warlike instinct which made them fight as soldiers at the same time. They fought the Spaniards on the Spanish main, and they levied tribute on their colonies. The people of England were seized with a desire of adventure. They found the necessity of spreading their trade to all countries, and from that day till now the people of England have been the military

and naval power of the world, and at the same time they have been a trading nation. (Hear, hear.) Here in Canada to-day we are having an attempt made by a foreign power to force us—

A Notice—McKinley!

Col. Denison—Yes, that is the gentleman. We are having, I say, an attempt made to force us, by cutting off our trade with that country, to annex ourselves to the United States. Well, gentlemen, there never was a better thing for Canada than that McKinley Bill. We have men who are not true to this country, who are going about preaching that our natural market is with our neighbors. I utterly repudiate any such doctrine. (Applause.) This puts me in mind of a little anecdote in connection with the Fenian raid, when I was at Fort Erie. After the soldiers had been sent away there was left a whole street of saloons and the saloonkeepers lived by going around drinking at each other's bars. That was an instance of people trading with their neighbors. (Laughter.) But, gentlemen, Canada is too great, too powerful and too wealthy a country to kneel down in the gutter before their neighbor's place of business. (Applause.) We are not a people, as Ben Butler says, to put up our hands and blubber, and any people who attempt to get the confidence of the Canadian people and try it by endeavouring to force us to get down and grovel before them in the gutter are not the people to succeed. (Applause.) Canada is too prosperous to take up the business of a book agent and put up with insults in order to get trade. (Hear, hear.) Another thing I wish to say is this, that there has been an intrigue going on in this country, for the last two or three years, with emissaries here and in the United States. That policy was carried out by the United with Texas, and with California. In 1812 it was the same thing with here. It is not a new idea, this of getting traitors to pave the way for trouble. In 1812 this country was filled with emissaries from the United States, and one great difficulty in the way of that gallant soldier, Gen. Brock, one of the finest soldiers that ever belonged to the imperial service, was from the emissaries who were trying to prepare the people to come over willingly to the United States. He had to call his House together and ask for an alien bill and for the suspension of the habeas corpus bill, to deal with them. Now, again, they are trying in the same way to prepare the people of Canada for a change, but they will never do it. (Hear, hear.)

It is not possible, and if it were possible, with the most lavish expenditure of money—and I see that our Premier has taken the view that there will be a lavish expenditure of money—to sell this country to the United States, I may say in the name of the naval and military forces of Britain that they will never be able to.

DELIVER THE GOODS.

(Loud applause. The great danger that there is in this matter is that they are leading the minds of the respectable people of the United States into the belief that the people of Canada are not satisfied with their present condition, and that they are longing for relief from the United States. We know they are mistaken. While we are now passing through an era of danger and change such as the people of England experienced at the time of Queen Elizabeth, I am satisfied that the spirit of Englishmen here in this country to-day: that spirit which led the English seadogs to spread their trade all over the world—will in the future serve the people of Canada to spread their trade to foreign countries. (Hear, hear.) I have been watching the state of feeling in Canada for the past two or three years, and nothing has pleased me more than to see the growth of that national spirit, that national pride of the people rising to the occasion. (Hear, hear.) Twenty years ago we were but a collection of small colonies, now we are a united Dominion, and the minds of the people are already filled with ideas of trade with China, Japan, Australia and the West Indies. Never in the history of the world has any country with a population as small as Canada's taken the responsibility of such an undertaking as the C. P. R. Already our Government are subsidizing steamers to run to other countries from the east and from the west. That is the cause of all this alarm in the United States, and we in this generation have reposed in us the responsibility of handing down to our children the glorious heritage that has been handed down to us. (Hear, hear.) No matter whether the struggle is to be a peaceful one or one that will call upon us to bring into play the forces of the army and navy of the empire, the Sons of England, every man of them, will be found standing shoulder to shoulder

for this old flag that you have here upon the walls to-night. (Loud applause.) I think that, speaking to you as Canadians, you will agree with the lines of Mr. Lesperance:

Shall we break the plight of youth,
And pledge us to an alien love!
No! we hold our faith and truth,
Trusting to the God above.
Stand, Canadians, firmly stand,
Round the flag of fatherland!

'Britain bore us in her flank,
Britain nursed us in our birth;
Britain reared us in our rank
Mid the nation's of the earth.
Stand, Canadians, firmly stand,
Round the flag of fatherland!

At this stage of the proceedings His Worship Mayor Clarke presented Bro. Robt. W. Adams with a handsome medal for bringing the greatest number into the lodge during the year. Amidst great applause, Bro. W. Millcamp announced that he would present a medal for the same purpose at the expiration of the present year.

Bro. Geo. Tyler, of the Naval Brigade, responded for the Navy in a patriotic and eloquent speech, which was well received.

"OUR NATIVE LAND," proposed by Bro. Ex-Ald. W. Millichamp, was responded to by H. K. Cockin, Esq., our esteemed Toronto poet, in a polished and eloquent speech, garnished with sparkling poetical fancies. It was a treat to see the great burly beef Baron Ald. Frankland, as he sat at the speaker's feet and received the exquisitely polished sentences of our gifted brother Englishmen. When reference was made in the speaker's inimitable manner to his early gambols on the village green beneath the shadows of the ancient church, the large heart of Frankland showed how the eloquent speaker had touched a soft spot and awakened old and tender memories; the spectacles became dim and the listener was fain to turn his face from the gaze of the audience in the fullness of his feelings. The writer has heard many gifted men but never before such graceful and poetical fancies as fell from the lips of Mr. Cockin. Mr. Cockin, who is a native of Yorkshire, will be initiated into Chesterfield Lodge at their next meeting.

"CANADA OUR ADOPTED LAND," was proposed by Bro. Ald. F. Moses, Song, "The Maple Leaf." Bro. Barlow Cumberland, responded and said he had found everywhere in Canada the Union Jack floating over the people, and that loyalty to England meant loyalty to Canada. "It is a glorious thing," he said "to think that Englishmen to-day are beating with Canadian hearts." (Applause.)

The President next proposed "IMPERIAL FEDERATION," which was responded to by Bro. Edmund E. Sheppard, who was feeling far from well and had attended the banquet against the advice of his physician, but made a most humorous and at the same time thoughtful speech.

Bro. R. Caddick, P.G.P., proposed, "THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION." His Worship the Mayor and Ald. G. F. Frankland, responded.

"SISTER LODGES" was proposed by the Vice-President, Bro. W. H. Hewlett, and responded to by Bro. Wm. Barker, P. P. Rugby Lodge.

Bro. C. Russell proposed "THE LADIES." As this toast by hereditary right belongs to Bro. R. Marshall, he responded in his usual happy manner. The morning being now far advanced, "GOD SAVE THE QUEEN" was sung and the large assembly dispersed.

About 180 sat down at the tables, at the head of which sat Bro. F. Herbert, the W. P. of the Lodge, Bro. W. H. Hewlett, V.P. of the Lodge, officiated as Vice-President. The consensus of opinion was that the banquet was one of the most successful ever held in Toronto. We think the McKinley bill largely contributed to this end. A suggestion was made during the evening that a combined banquet of all the Toronto lodges should be held at an early date. The only difficulty respecting the carrying out of the scheme is that we cannot procure a building half large enough to accommodate the guests who would desire to be present.

During the evening songs were given by Bros. Harry Blight, Harry Barker, J. L. Nichols, J. Warne and R. W. Adams. The lodge now numbers 308 members, with a fund of \$3,000. The past year has been a most successful one under the able presidency of Bro. F. Herbert.

Bro. J. M. Williams, the energetic secretary, and the committee acting with him, are to be congratulated upon the great success attendant upon their labours.

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