

It was resolved to apply the money on hand to the reduction of the debt, and the Secretary was given the privilege of giving his note for the balance—bearing interest at one and a half per cent. per month.

The regular and annual meeting of the Lodge was held on the 27th of December, 1860, when a visit was received from the Grand Master of Washington Territory, M. W. Brother E. Garfield. The officers, that is, the Master, Treasurer and Tyler, were elected for the ensuing year, and the day was celebrated by a grand Ball in the evening. The Ball was held in the Court House, James' Bay, and according to "The British Colonist" the company present was large and highly respectable. His Excellency Governor Douglas and the Grand Master of Washington Territory honoured the occasion with their presence, and "the varied regalia of the Fraternity, combined with the uniforms of the gallant representatives of the Royal Navy, and all set off with the beauty and charms of the fair sex, presented a picture of enjoyment, whilst whirling in the giddy waltz, that could not well be surpassed."

About the time that these events were taking place in Victoria, gold was discovered on the Thompson and Fraser Rivers, while previously coal had been found at Nanaimo. This caused settlements to be established at Nanaimo, at Fort Yale and at Fort Langley, the last-mentioned being the metropolis of the mainland, although the town was soon afterwards moved to New Westminster, which became the seat of government of the Colony. Cariboo also shared in the excitement and attracted a large number of men.

It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that shortly after the establishment of Victoria Lodge a second Lodge should have been organized, and this time at New Westminster. A meeting to organize a Lodge was held at New Westminster during the winter of 1860, at which were present Brothers

Henry Holbrook,
Dr. Seddall, of the Royal Engineers,
Peacock, clerk to Bro. Holbrook,
Frye, of the Customs,
Hickey, constable,
Levi, storekeeper,
Boos, Levi's partner and
William Stewart.

It was agreed to ask for a Warrant of Constitution from the Grand Master of England, and because the petitioners came from different Jurisdictions, it was decided to call it the Union Lodge. Brother Holbrook was nominated as the first Worshipful Master, Brother Seddall the first Senior Warden, and Brother Peacock the first Junior Warden. The petition was sent to England, but the Warrant was refused because, according to the English Constitution the first office-bearers must be registered in the books of the Grand Lodge of England and Brother Peacock was a Scotch Mason. Subsequently some of the members of Victoria Lodge, whose names cannot be learnt, signed the petition and a new Junior Warden was chosen, the result being that a Warrant was granted bearing the date of the 16th of December, 1861, and the number 1201.

Unfortunately the earlier records of Union Lodge were lost in a fire which occurred in 1886, and the details of its organization and early proceedings are wanting.