

1871, according to schedule, and decided to form a Grand Lodge for the colony. There is no record of the meeting, and it is not known who were present except W. Brothers Simeon Duck and G. C. Keays and Brothers H. F. Heisterman and George Grant. R. W. Brother I. W. Powell, who, however, was absent from the colony was elected Grand Master and Brother H. F. Heisterman, Grand Secretary, and an invitation was sent to and accepted by M. W. Brother the Hon. Ellwood Evans, Past Grand Master of Washington, to attend and install the officers of the new Grand Lodge. An invitation to be present was also sent to R. W. Brother Burnaby, upon receipt of which he instructed the District Grand Secretary to attend the meeting, and protest against its proceeding in the matter.

This he did, and the protest was effectual, for the representatives of Caledonia Lodge returned home with the information that the formation of a Grand Lodge had been indefinitely postponed.

Some time during the summer R. W. Brother Powell returned from England and found the Brethren in a state of dissension and discord. Feelings ran high, and the two sections of the Craft were hardly on speaking terms. He and R. W. Brother Burnaby held several consultations on the subject, and after agreeing between themselves that the formation of an independent Grand Lodge was desirable, decided to submit the question to a vote of all the members of their respective Jurisdictions. It was stipulated and understood by the Brethren that in the event of the Craft voting in favour of an independent Grand Lodge, either Brother Powell or Brother Burnaby would be the first Grand Master, and whichever was not elected Grand Master would be made Past Grand Master.

A circular was accordingly issued by the Provincial and District Grand Masters to their respective Lodges instructing the Brethren to vote on the question of forming an independent Grand Lodge. The result of the vote was one hundred and ninety-four in favour of and twenty-eight against the proposition. The result of the vote being so overwhelmingly in favour of forming a Grand Lodge another convention was called and was held in Victoria on the 21st of October, 1871, there being present the representatives of all the Lodges in the Province with the exception of Union Lodge, which declined to join. Brother James A. Grahame, of Quadra Lodge was appointed chairman of the meeting, and Brother H. F. Heisterman, of the same Lodge, Secretary. A resolution declaring it expedient to form a Grand Lodge in and for the Province of British Columbia was carried unanimously and amidst great applause, and immediately afterwards another declaring the Grand Lodge of British Columbia to be formed was also carried unanimously. R. W. Brother Powell was elected Grand Master, and in consideration of their valuable services R. W. Brother Burnaby was made an honorary Past Grand Master, and W. Brother James A. Grahame an honorary Past Deputy Grand Master of the new Grand Lodge. After some formal business was transacted the meeting adjourned, and was called together again on the 26th of December, 1871, when the officers-elect were installed by M. W. Brother Burnaby.

Nanaimo Lodge and Caledonia Lodge displayed some reluctance to accept Warrants from the new Grand Lodge, fearing that they would be called on to change their rituals (and in the case of Caledonia Lodge, their clothing.) However, a letter from the Grand Master was read in Nanaimo Lodge, and one from the Grand Secretary in Caledonia Lodge, stating that all the Lodges could practice their own rituals so