

"HAIL, KNIGHTS ROYAL."

Vancouver City Company, No. 4, Uniform Rank Knights of Pythias, met as usual at Pythian Hall, with a fair attendance, but could be better, owing to it being the last meeting of the old year. It is to be hoped that the members will take new life and spirit, and come to the front as they did of yore.

As nomination and election of officers for the coming year takes place at our next regular meeting, all should be present. We shall be in possession of our new rituals, the first meeting in the new year. See the opinions of the Supreme Representatives of Minnesota as to what they have to say regarding the new ritual. "The conception of the ritual is noble and patriotic; its action smooth and easy; its time brief; and it is said to be a vast improvement over the one formerly in use?"

On the seventh of this month I had the pleasure of going to the station and bidding bon voyage to our worthy Knight Loyal, Past Capt. C. L. Behnson, as he was off for Sandon on a patriotic mission to institute a company of Uniform Knights of Pythias. I am sure he will be able to give a good account of himself and his trip at our next meeting, so don't forget to come, boys.

Appreciation for moral worth and heroic effort for the Union Rank and the upbuilding of Pythianism in this grand domain has been his platform.

The rank shows to the outside world the progress, virtue and pleasure of the Pythian Brotherhood, and they create an enthusiasm that nothing else will supply. And its teachings lead to a better relationship to the lodge and a higher loyalty and fealty to the Order. We must ever remember that our orders, are the institutions of man, for the betterment of his brothers' conditions; and the cultivation of all those qualities that aid in making honest citizens, good fathers, faithful husbands, and worthy brothers: to nurse the sick, bury the dead, and educate the orphan.

Fraternally yours in F. B. C.

CAPTAIN JOHN CROW,

Vancouver City Co., No. 4, U. R. K. of P.

THE SCOT ABROAD.

A story appeared in a well-known serial a few years since, describing the disappointment of an Englishman who went out to the East as an interpreter, and whose ruling passion was a hatred of everything Scotch. Strolling through the camp one day with a Turkish officer, and abusing the Scotch to his heart's content, to his astonishment Hassan Bey, the Turk, broke out, "I'll tell ye whaat, ma man, gin ye daur lowse ye're tongue upon my country like that, I'll gie ye a clood in the lug that'll mak' it tingle fra this till Hal-low'en." The thunderstruck Englishman stammered out, "Why, my good man, I thought you were a Turk!" "An' sae I am a Turk the noo, ma braw chiel," said the angry Glasgow Mussulman, "but ma father's old leather breeks ne'er travelled farther than just fra Glasgow to Greenock and back again, but when I gang hame—as I'll dae ere lang, if it be God's will—I'll just be Wully Forbes, son o' old Daddy Forbes o' the Gorbals, or a' that's come and gane!" Presently a splendidly

dre-sed Hungarian came up and said to the Turk, "Wully, man, there's a truce, the noo for twa 'ours: just come wi' me and we'll hae a glass o' whisky thegither." It was the same with a Russian officer, until the Englishman exclaimed, "Bless my heart, is everybody on earth a Scotchman? Perhaps I'm one myself without knowing it!" But when the Russian General Tarassoff exclaimed, "Eh, Donald Cawmell, are ye here?" and Ibrahim Pasha burst forth, simultaneously, "What, Sandy Robertson, can this be you?" the Englishman burst forth, "It's all over! Turks, Russians, Hungarians, English—all Scotchmen! it's more than I can bear! I shall go home; there's nothing left for me to do here. I came out as an interpreter, but if all the nations of Europe talk Scotch, what use can I be?"

GROWTH OF THE K. OF P.

The Order of the Knights of Pythias must possess great merit, or it would have been impossible to have had its phenomenal growth within 35 years. From beginning in this humble way, it now has 6,683 lodges, with a membership of 468,269 up to 1897. The following tabulated statement shows the growth of the Order by years:—

Year	Lodges	Membership
1864.....	3.....	78
1865.....	1.....	72
1866.....	4.....	379
1867.....	41.....	6487
1868.....	194.....	34624
1869.....	465.....	54289
1870.....	643.....	60022
1871.....	886.....	79915
1873.....	1228.....	95602
1874.....	1423.....	101453
1884.....	2177.....	157132
1890.....	4269.....	308290
1894.....	6291.....	456905
1895.....	6504.....	464539
1897.....	6683.....	468269

There are four lodges in Mexico and four in the Hawaiian Islands. The uniformed members of the Order, of which Major-General James R. Carnahan is the head, are 1200 companies, with a membership of over 45,000, arranged into regiments, brigades and divisions.

Another feature of this Order is the system of insurance termed the Endowment Rank, with 4,108 sections and a membership of 53,767. It is conducted upon the soundest possible financial basis, having 99,389,500 of endowment in force, with about half a million of dollars in cash on hand, and has paid out in death claims \$12,750,000.

IN A FLOURISHING STATE.

In all its departments and branches, the Order of Knights of Pythias can be said to be in a most flourishing condition, with the prospect of a phenomenal future extending beyond the boundaries of the United States—as certainly its lessons are acceptable to mankind—and its coming into existence has been found to be most opportune.

The charm of this Order lies in its true spirit of democracy—men of all conditions and all beliefs find in it the true philosophy of helpful kinship.