

WYOMING—1896.

The 22nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Wyoming was held in the hall of Sheridan Lodge, No. 8, in the town of Sheridan, in September 8th, 1896.

M. W. Bro. Fenimore Chatterton, Grand Master, presided and addressed the Grand Lodge. He rejoices with his brethren in the evidences of material prosperity which surround them and in the hopeful opportunities which the future indicates.

Death has however invaded the ranks of the Fraternity, and the loss of P. G. M. Orlando North is deeply mourned. Bro. North was one of the pioneers of the West. "A man who had won honors, Political and Masonic by merit, and the esteem and love of his neighbors by his honorable private life." Fraternal relations continue of the most harmonious character.

During the year the Grand Master had been able to make a number of, most agreeable visitations.

Few decisions are reported because few occasions had arisen when they appeared necessary.

The Grand Master discusses with intelligence and moderation the subject as to whether a Lodge should confer Masonic degrees upon one who is engaged in the saloon business. From the standpoint of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Wyoming "that it is the imperative duty of the Lodges in this Jurisdiction, as far as possible to restrain the crime of intemperance" and other clear provisions of the Masonic law in the Jurisdiction, he comes to the following conclusion :—

"As a result of very close observation, I am firmly convinced that the extension of Masonic rights to this class of applicants, sooner or later, brings discredit upon the order, and places not only the individual Lodge and its members, but the fraternity at large, in a position of deserved adverse criticism and often of censure, and I trust that the Masons of Wyoming will not brave that possibility."

This volume of proceedings contains portraits of Grand Secretary, W. L. Kuykendall, P. G. M. Leroy S. Barnes, (G. M. 1889-90), and P. G. M., E. A. Abry, (G. M. 1890-91).