

Hotel, where a true Pythian banquet had been prepared by Bro. Stege. Following the feast of good things came a well-balanced programme of toasts, speeches, songs, stories, etc., in which three brethren of the Buchanan Dramatic Troupe, then in town, participated. Bro. Haddow as a singer is a "cuckoo," and he had to respond several times. It was three o'clock ere the affair terminated, it being an unqualified success. Our Grand Chancellor is a "grand" fellow, and he made the boys feel that they had a true friend in him. May his shadow never grow less! Bro. Haddow spent three days here, and he was right royally entertained.

The next evening, No. 22 gave the second of their "At Homes," and it was a huge success. Almost everybody in town was present, and the fun waxed warm and long. Cards and other social games were provided, interspersed with phonographic selections and speeches. Bro. Haddow gave a short address on behalf of the Order, which was well received by the audience. V. C., Bro. Bolander, acted as Chairman, and he and the members saw to it that everyone was made to feel "at home," and that all were enjoying themselves. Then came refreshments and fruit, the entertainment winding up by a short dance. It is by these and kindred efforts that New Denver Lodge has earned such a proud reputation, and anybody in this neighborhood is willing to swear by the Knights. Of course it takes a deal of trouble to get up these affairs, but when they turn out such a success and do so much good, the members feel well repaid for their pains.

Apropos of the Grand Chancellor's visit, there is one aspect of these official functions that calls for comment. When the G. C. sets out on his tour of inspection, he finds everything in readiness for him and everything cut and dried. There is the same routine of entertainment, the same demand for highly flavored speeches, and the same exhibition of forced membership attendance. All this tends to give a fictitious idea of the strength and progress and workings of the several lodges. Why not visit the lodges without notification? Then the lodges could be seen as they usually are, and the faithful few who are constant in their duty to the Order would have their devotion more appreciated. The constant feeding and laudation must assuredly grow nauseous and tiresome to the afflicted brother in question, particularly where the grand domain is more populous than is our own.

Bro. Van Dorn has been fortunate of late, in that a good strike of mineral has been made on one of his claims. He is deserving of his fortune, for he is a hard-working brother.

Bro. R. Sutherland met with a painful accident some time ago at the Wakefield mine, where he was working, having run a candle-holder through his hand. He has fully recovered now, though the wound was most painful.

Bro. T. Clements has just recovered from a three-weeks' siege of rheumatism. A trip to the Halcyon Hot Springs boiled the "tics" out of him.

Bro. Conrad Bill is figuring upon going to Porto Rico shortly, and Bro. Hugh Brady to the Atlin country. It is pretty hard to keep the membership together.

Our Grand Representative, Bro. C. F. Nelson, is setting his house in order, preparatory to attending the coming meeting of the Grand Lodge. He has been primed to the neck with wisdom, and he will make his presence felt among the grand legislators. He is our sage upon whom the mantle of Bill Nye has assuredly fallen.

In the last issue of the "Pythian Tribune," published by Bro. Kennedy, is an article in which the liability of lodges in respect to funeral benefits, is touched upon. The conclusions arrived at will surprise the majority of brethren. At the same time it should be a warning to all lodges to be more careful and guarded in the wording of their by-laws.

At our last convention three members were suspended for non-payment of dues, and the axe is about to fall on two or three more. What a great pity it is that this disagreeable step must be taken!

A sad drowning fatality occurred here this week, by which two worthy young men have lost their lives, and sorrow has fallen upon two Pythian homes. The parties drowned were J. O. Todd and F. B. Jeffery. The former was a cousin of Bro. E. Shannon, and he was about to become a member of our lodge. The other unfortunate was a brother Knight, belonging to one of the New Westminster lodges. Their untimely end is severely felt here, as they were most highly esteemed. Much sympathy is expressed for the bereaved friends.

C. E. SMITHERINGALE.

New Denver, April 15th, 1899.

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