

the final banquet, given by the Rossland brethren, and from it will be seen that no effort was spared to make this function a success from every point of view.

THE BANQUET.

From the Rossland "Miner":—

A grand banquet was given last night in the Oddfellows' Hall in honor of the meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Province of the Order of Knights of Pythias. It was a highly successful function and the spread gave great credit to the hospitality of the Order and to the catering powers of Mr. W. G. Merryweather, of the Windsor Hotel. About sixty to seventy guests were present, and songs and speeches diversified pleasantly the proceedings of the evening.

The chair was taken by A. G. Creelman, with Mayor Goodeve on his left and Mr. Frank Bristow on his right. After ample justice had been done to the viands the Chairman, who was the toast-master of the evening, introduced Mayor Goodeve, who, in giving his address of welcome to the representatives of the various lodges over the Province assembled in the hall that evening said that the Kootenays were a great country, great in their mineral wealth and great in their hospitality. There were two sides to human nature, the hard, cold, keen business side, and the better, warmer social side. From both points of view Rossland extended a warm welcome to the visiting Knights of Pythias. He believed that Order numbered 1,400 in this Province, and over half a million in the country. Rossland was proud of the Grand Lodge having selected this city as the first in the Kootenays in which it had held its annual meeting. The Mayor went on to say that this city was but the growth of four years, and that its institutions, though all flourished, were very young. Rossland had great faith in the future of its mines, and the speaker hoped that the visitors would tell their friends what they had seen.

The first toast of the evening was "The Queen," which was honored by singing the National Anthem. Following immediately afterwards, the toast of "America" was ushered in by the "Star Spangled Banner," and Mr. Frank Bristow responded in an eloquent speech, in which he pronounced a fervid eulogy on the United States as a country to which nature had been very prodigal. It had honored with the highest position in its gift alike the rail splitter and the university graduate. It was the home of the down-trodden of other nations. Its victories in commerce evoked the admiration of the entire world. It had men of eminence in every walk of life. Its chief claim was its proficiency in trade and in the mechanical arts and the ability of its citizens to "get there." Its wise and beneficent laws had sown the grain of mustard seed from which the branches of the two great divisions of the Anglo-Saxon race were filling the four quarters of the world.

Mr. Will Astley then obliged the guests with singing "Sweet Genevieve," in excellent voice. He was vociferously applauded and gave as an encore "Mary, the Tender Blossom of the Tree."

Responding to the toast of the Supreme

Lodge, Mr. H. J. Anstie said that Great Britain extended her sympathy to the United States in the late struggle with Cuba, and Great Britain now thanks America for sympathy which that nation is now extending to her in her time of trouble. Justus Rathbone had founded the Order in 1864 in the United States, but many Canadians had helped in its inception and the Order itself was extended to Canada in 1870. In 1886 the Supreme Lodge held its annual convention in the City of Toronto, and thus, as far as the Pythians were concerned, there was no dividing line between the two countries.

Mr. T. Ackerman, in responding to the same toast, declared that he was delighted with his visit to this country. He had no idea of the magnificent scenery such as he had the privilege of witnessing on Arrow Lake, nor had he any idea of Rossland, as he expected to find a few cabins inhabited by a few hundred miners. He did not believe that Rossland had all the ore in British Columbia. It was the first mining city in the Province, but there would be others, for he thought that this Province would be known hereafter as the greatest wealth producing spot on the continent. The speaker gave some facts about the organization, which was a fraternal Order; but was one that had a great benefit side. It had paid out over \$13,000,000 to widows and orphans, and had at the present moment over \$500,000 in the treasury, and it would pay young members to carry from \$1,000 to \$3,000 in it.

The next toast on the list was the "Grand Lodge of British Columbia," which was responded to primarily by the G. V. C., Noble Bluns. of Trail. He said that the Grand Lodge would meet again in Rossland for it had had a most harmonious session here. This was the close of the 19th Century, and the next meeting of the Grand Lodge would be in the 20th Century. All churches and organizations were making some special effort to celebrate this centenary, and it behooved the Knights of Pythias to advance the interests of their Order in the future more than ever they had done in the past in commemoration. "For," said the speaker, "good knights would also be good citizens of British Columbia."

Following the Grand Vice Chancellor, Mr. James Crossan spoke on the same subject, saying that it was a great pleasure for the knights of the Coast to meet their brethren of Rossland. Personally the speaker had never been here before, but he hoped he would be here again, for he had been treated royally. Not long ago there were only five lodges in the Province; now there were 29. Next year the Grand Lodge would convene in Revelstoke, and he hoped that that number would be yet increased by additions in the Kootenays.

Brother Robert Haddow now sang with great spirit, "Grace Darling," following with "The Charge of the Light Brigade," both of which songs were enthusiastically received by the assembly.

The "Subordinate Lodges" was responded to by Messrs. H. C. Holden, J. Ferguson and A. J. Randolph.

Mr. H. C. Holden made a few remarks which were unhappily mostly inaudible to the press. He was understood to disclaim the honor thrust