

Chatham, August 8th 1900

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GRAND PATRIARCH

Delivers His Charge at the Annual Meeting

Of the Grand Encampment, I. O. O. F., in Hamilton—An Excellent Showing.

The annual meeting of the Grand Encampment of Ontario, I. O. O. F., took place in Hamilton yesterday. The gathering was most representative and great enthusiasm and good fellowship was manifested throughout the day's proceedings. Grand Patriarch of Ontario, Wm. Potter, of this city, presented his report, as follows:

GRAND PATRIARCH'S REPORT.
To the Officers and Representatives of the Grand Encampment of Ontario, I. O. O. F.:

Patriarchs.—Through the kindness of Divine Providence, we are permitted to gather to-day in the Ambitious City under the Mountain, and we are reminded of the birthplace of this Grand Encampment, the City of Hamilton, so famed for its lovely surroundings by land and water and for the progressive and enterprising spirit of its people, and the outcome of which may be seen in its wonderful growth as a manufacturing and commercial centre.

We are met here to receive the record of the past year and to legislate for the future.

At the time of the institution of the Grand Encampment, we had only six encampments and a membership of 157. To-day we send forth representatives from over 70 encampments and a total membership of nearly 4,000.

I am very pleased to be able to report the general prosperity of the year now terminated and an increase in our membership of nearly 150, according to the latest statistics in my possession, and collected up to the date of this publication, and these figures may receive augmentation from subsequent reports.

I have met with some measure of success with respect to resuscitations, being able to report the awakening of three dormant encampments, namely,

Newmarket, Trenton and Dresden. With a little exertion, the outlook is hopeful for two new encampments at Palmerston and Thamesville.

Trenton Encampment, No. 71, was resuscitated Tuesday evening, Feb. 1st, 1900, by G. L. Scott, D. D. G. P., Sterling, Ont., and about 12 Patriarchs from the same place.

After a good deal of correspondence and assurance that Newmarket Encampment could be placed on a sound footing, I commissioned H. E. Terry, D. D. G. P., of Toronto, to proceed with the resuscitation, which he did on the 18th of May of this year, accompanied by A. H. Blackby, P. G. P., of Kingston, and 25 Patriarchs of Toronto.

Following the interchange of considerable correspondence, I visited Dresden and re-organized its Encampment No. 37, on June 14th, 1900. We had a grand meeting there, being about 30 members present who fully signified their intention of again going on with this work.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

On Dec. 7th, 1900, I made my pioneer official visit to Alpha Encampment, No. 26, Sarnia, after having received a very pressing invitation to be with the 25th anniversary of their encampment.

On the 8th of December, 1899, I visited Frontier Encampment No. 2, Windsor, where I had the pleasure of meeting more than 50 of the Patriarchs in their handsomely adorned lodgeroom. After the general business of the encampment had been concluded, we went out steps to the banquet hall, where an elaborate collation, prepared by the Daughters of Rebekah, invited our attention, and was ably presided over by our good brother, W. Bushell, P. C. P. I have pleasant recollections of this encampment for from its celebrated degree staff I received my first conception of Patriarchal Oddfellowship.

On January 4th, 1900, I visited by invitation, my own encampment, in Chatham, where a complimentary banquet was tendered to me, it being the night of the installation of officers. D. D. G. P. Sides, of Wallaceburg, was present and installed the officers elect into their respective chairs. There were nearly 100 Patriarchs present.

After the ceremonies attending the installation of the new officers, a most palatable banquet was given, presided over by that veteran Oddfellow, Patriarch O. B. Hallin, who made a neat speech, in which he referred in terms of eulogy to our Grand Patriarch, a member of our encampment who has been honored with the highest position in the gift of the Grand Encampment of Ontario, and who was being welcomed on that night in his official capacity.

I made a suitable reply in which I fully appreciated the remarks made as to my elevation to the position of Grand Patriarch and the honor conferred on the encampment. Speeches were also delivered by our Grand Deputy, who briefly reviewed his work in the district, also Patriarch Robertson, of Minneapolis; followed by Patriarchs John Turner and Isaac Smith, charter members of this encampment. We also had a recitation, "Charge of the Light Brigade," by Patriarch A. M. Lafferty, delivered with his usual fire and energy. A pleasant flow of song and sentiment followed and a very enjoyable evening was broken up at an early hour.

January 9th, on invitation of Phoenix Encampment, Wallaceburg, I visited the Patriarchs officially, it being the night of the installation of officers. At the request of the D. D. G. P., and the encampment, I installed the officers into their respective chairs. After installation, a repast provided by the Daughters of Rebekah, was enjoyed in the spacious banquet hall beneath the lodgeroom. Short addresses were given by D. D. G. P. Sides; Joseph Pierce, P. C. P., of Chatham Encampment, myself and others.

On March 12th, upon invitation, I visited Hebron Encampment, Parkhill, Ont.

March 22nd, upon invitation, I visited Exeter Encampment and was joined at the depot by E. J. Spackman, G. J. W., of the Grand Encampment, every member of which, except one on the sick list, was present to me.

On March 23rd, also upon invitation, I visited Charity Encampment No. 5, Stratford, Ont., it being the night of their regular meeting.

Having received a very pressing invitation to visit Pointe aux Pins Encampment, Blenheim, Ont., I cheerfully accepted the same and in company with D. D. G. P. Sides, on July 3rd, 1900, visited the above encampment. It was the night of their regular meeting and installation of officers. I was requested by the D. D. G. P. and by the encampment to perform the installation ceremony, which from the short speeches followed by D. D. G. P. Sides, G. M. Baird, P. C. P., and others, after which we moved to Patriarch Wedge's ice cream parlors, where the patriarchs cooled themselves off with ice cream and watermelons.

After closing this record of my visits within my own jurisdiction and before passing on to the next head, I cannot let the opportunity pass by without referring to two official visits made by Chatham Degree staff to the State of Michigan. Tuesday, August 21st, 1899, in company with my degree staff, 30 in number, I left for Fort Gratiot, Michigan, having had special invitation from that encampment to confer and exemplify the three degrees of Patriarchal Oddfellowship. Upon our arrival, we were met by Geo. M. French, P. C. P., and others who showed us the sights of Fort Gratiot and Fort Huron. We had also in company with us, Patriarch T. A. Smith, the Mayor of the city of Chatham, and John Gibson, P. G. P., who has been present upon every visit which the Chatham Degree Staff has made. There were representatives of the degrees. There were representatives from Detroit, Newhaven, Sarnia, Crosswell and other places. All of whom took the three degrees, and I have no doubt that the visit of the staff to Fort Gratiot will be of great benefit to that staff, and on behalf of the Degree Staff I desire to thank P. G. P. Skimming, Grand Representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge, and P. C. French for his valuable assistance rendered us on that occasion. The work being finished, we journeyed to the lodge room, where a splendid spread delighted the inner man. After the usual interchange of courtesies, we took our departure for home by a special train from Sarnia.

Wednesday, September 20th, 1899, upon invitation of Ingersoll Encampment, No. 29, of Detroit, Chatham Encampment Degree Staff visited that city for the purpose of exemplifying the Patriarchal degree in the presence of the Sovereign Grand Lodge. The staff was accompanied by their full orchestra of eight pieces. The work was exemplified in the Armory of the Detroit Legion Infantry, the resources of that large building being taxed to their utmost capacity to accommodate the company, nearly all the representatives of the Sovereign Grand Lodge being present on that occasion, and it was the unanimous opinion of all that the work was the best ever needed. In fact congratulations were showered upon the degree staff by the Grand Representatives from various States in the Union and from the Province of the Dominion. We were also distinguished by that occasion our distinguished brother, Past Grand sire Campbell, of London, Ontario; Past Grand Representative, Blanche; Grand Treasurer, Belter; John Gibson, P. G. P., and other grand officers.

We were addressed by the Grand Sire in eloquent terms which, I feel convinced, should have had the effect of inspiring enthusiasm in the hearts of all Patriarchs present. The hospitality of the members of Ingersoll Encampment will ever dwell in our remembrance.

District No. 2, Louis H. Sides, D. D. G. P.—I find all the Encampments in a healthy condition, having installed the officers of the past year. Encampment Dresden has once more fallen into line and is in good working order again, and I have every hope that they will become a prosperous encampment.

This district comprised of four encampments, has 281 members and shows an increase of 20 for the term ending June 30th, 1900.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

I reappointed Frank Riddell, P. G. P., and John McCorvie, P. C. P. Chatham, Ont. Owing to the removal of the former to the United States, I appointed in his stead, Alf Davis, P. C. P., of London.

It would be ungracious an unjust to withhold my thanks to the press of the Province, which is so worthily represented in our membership within these walls, and to those brisk and talented reporters who, during the official year now closed, have so ably chronicled our social gatherings and such items of general interest connected with our order as could be given to the outside public. Our official organ, "The Independent Oddfellow," in its first year as successor to the "Dominion Oddfellow," is a highly creditable publication both typographically and from a literary and society standpoint and gives us the history of our order from month to month.

The narrative of the stubborn conflict now nearing its close in South Africa, has

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for us an interest at once glorious and melancholy—glorious because so many of our brethren have left the peaceful walls of the lodge room to hold up the flag of the Empire; melancholy since vacant chair reminds us of those who have fallen victims to fell disease or to the bullet of the Boer.

I desire to express my sincere thanks to M. D. Dawson, Grand Scribe, also to Past Grand Patriarch Blackby, Past Grand Patriarch Gibson, D. D. G. P. Terry, D. D. G. P. Sides, D. D. G. P. George L. Scott and others, for the valuable assistance given on all occasions.

I wish here to thank you most heartily for the great honor conferred on me by my election to the highest position in this grand body, an honor which I can assure you, was fully appreciated.

In thus giving you an account of my stewardship, and of the high trust which you have confided to me, I am beset with conflicting feelings of pleasure in the property of our order and fear that, in spite of my best effort during the year, some omission on my part may be a source of censure. I trust that my successor in office may meet with the same hearty co-operation which I have received.

LEAMINGTON.

Aug. 7.—Frank Miller, of Walkerville, is spending a few days here before taking his summer trip among the Georgian Bay Islands.

David Usher, of St. Thomas, who has been spending a month with his sister, Mrs. H. A. Dunn, returned home Saturday evening.

J. Smith, of Chatham, is visiting his son, Ed. Smith.

Rev. N. D. Keith, pastor of the Presbyterian church, will take a holiday for three or four weeks. During the holiday time the church interior will be frescoed and otherwise improved.

Miss Belle Fuller took the place of Miss Lulu Deming, leading soprano in the Presbyterian church, on Sunday. Her singing and the solo given by her at the morning service was much appreciated.

The grocers and boot and shoe merchants are petitioning the council to repeal the early closing by-law as far as they are concerned.

M. K. Cowan, M. P., spent Monday here, no doubt mixing a little political work with business. It will take him all his time to fix things right in Leamington.

Mr. Sharp, of the Merchant's Bank, who has been off on his holidays has returned, and L. Beuglet, of the same institution, takes his holidays.

The Leamington and Essex base ball teams played a game on the Leamington grounds on Wednesday last, when the Essex team was defeated by a score of 48 to 8. To-day the same team plays in Essex and the Essex boys by the aid of a strong Detroit contingent hope to defeat the Leamington boys.

George W. Jackson and son Foster left on Saturday for New York city.

Edward Nash has purchased from Mr. Weir that fine property known as the old fair grounds. There is a handsome residence on it and most of it is out in fruit. The price paid is said to have been \$2,500.

Nearly all the ministers are away on their holidays but so far it is not noticed that the people are suffering from lack of spiritual sustenance.

The old Deming House, the oldest hotel in the town, is likely to be rebuilt and made the finest in town. E. Wigle, the present occupant, will sell the owners who will run it while building and then release when the new one is completed. It will cost about \$5,000.

PROVIDENCE.

The quarterly meeting of the Jeanette's Croquet circuit will be held at Providence next Sunday afternoon, Aug. 12th, at 3 o'clock. Rev. J. B. Kennedy, of Tilbury, will preach and conduct the sacramental service. The pastor, Rev. J. H. Osterhout, B. A., will preach in Tilbury that day. The quarterly business meeting will be held on Monday, Aug. 13, at 2:30 p. m., at Jeanette's Croquet.

AUGUST AND THE HOLIDAYS

This store is especially equipped to make those days the most comfortable and enjoyable for all male mankind,—the littlest of the little boys to the tallest or widest of men, young or old.

From the smallest outing or August necessity that belongs anywhere to the male wardrobe in things wearable, to the nicest requirements in evening things, we are ready with the goods.

The Civic Holiday practically ushers in the month. We here at home owe it to ourselves to be at our best and we will do our part and furnish all you need and save you money besides.

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