

The St. George's Rifles.

BRO. DR. RYERSON, M.P.P., ELECTED COLONEL.

The Description of the Formation—The Uniform Chosen—Interview by a Prominent Englishman.

(Communicated.)

The proposed formation of an English corps, so shortly after the accomplishment of a similar enterprise on the part of the Scotch, is an evidence that the English in Toronto are in no way behind the brethren of the north. The movement appears to be very popular in Toronto, and about 1000 names have been sent in. The membership is not restricted to the Sons of England Society, and the recruiting list will be open to all comers, but there is no doubt that the majority of them will be English. A meeting was held at Shaftesbury Hall, on Friday evening, the 14th of July, and a permanent committee formed to carry out the arrangement, in connection with the formation of the battalion. Bro. Geo. Howell presided at the meeting and Bro. S. W. Burns acted as secretary pro tem.

The permanent committee consists of delegates from the different city lodges, with Bro. Dr. Ryerson, M.P.P., as hon. president, Bro. F. Beverley-Linden, as chairman, and Bro. S. W. Burns, secretary-treasurer. Committees on uniform and recruiting were appointed and the recruiting lists are rapidly filling up, and probably by the next meeting of the permanent committee the desired strength will be attained.

The uniform selected by the committee is the same as worn by that crack volunteer corps of London, "The Artists," being light grey tunic and trousers, with silver and blue facings, brown leather leggings, with patent leather bottoms, brown belts and accoutrements, and a grey shako with silver badge and facings with a plume of cocks feathers, the plume being the same as worn by the London Rifle Brigade. The regiment, clothed in this uniform, will make a very handsome appearance, and at the same time it is most serviceable either for parade purposes or for active service. The light grey has been decided by the authorities to be the least perceptible to the enemy whilst reconnoitring or in battalion movements.

It is proposed to form the fund for equipment and organization of the battalion by subscriptions from the citizens, the government grant, and a subscription from the members of the regiment. It is estimated that it will require about \$15,000 to purchase uniforms and instruments for the band, equip the men and put the corps into proper martial trim.

The S. G. P., Bro. Thos. Elliott, has given the movement, not only his sanction, but will do all in his power to make it a success, and our popular P. S. G. P., Bro. W. R. Stroud, also expresses his sincere sympathy with the movement, and laments that he, like the sailor, "has too much beam," which would, he thinks, detract considerably from his military appearance. Therefore, as he says:—Although he cannot be a "soldier" in a practical sense, yet at the same time he will work, as all those who are acquainted with him well know that he will with might and main do all he can to assist the movement.

The Government should not, we think, hesitate in the matter, as the city of Toronto can well afford either one or two more battalions, as the Grenadiers, The Queen's Own and The Kilites, are, we believe, all over their strength.

Toronto, July 29th.—Bro. Dr. Ryerson, M.P.P., was elected colonel of the St. George's Rifles last night.

In connection with the above it may be well to state that Capt. Jno. R. Hooper, a member of Derby Lodge, has had the scheme of the formation of an English drill corps under way in Ottawa for some time past. As he possesses first-class artillery and infantry certificates, he is well qualified to speak on the subject. In response to our request for an interview, he said:—

"Yes, the idea is not a new one, and the fact that it has been kept quiet was simply in order that our chances would not be overthrown by any other similar project. Now, it is no use talking about a Sons of England corps. It is not desirable, nor is it possible, because it is against the Queen's Regulations. The Army Act does not sanction the arming and equipping of secret societies, but, we can, and intend, to form a distinctively English corps, on exactly

the same basis that there exists at present distinctively Scotch corps. You may say that our corps is now a certainty. I had the roll of members of those willing to form an independent company all completed, and, in fact, we were negotiating for arms and clothing, when the scheme to form the St. George's Rifles came up. We are now prepared to fall in with that idea and become part of such a corps if organized. If it is not organized, then we will go ahead as before, present ourselves to the Militia Department, and ask to be embodied under the Militia Act. If we are then refused, we will ask to be enrolled as volunteers without pay. Should they refuse then, which, however, is hardly likely, we will arm and equip ourselves. Let the St. George's Rifles be the inception of the volunteer movement in Canada—volunteers, I do not mean militia, but a corps receiving no pay from the Government. Of course the company I have been forming were well aware that they would have to depend largely upon personal subscriptions in order to equip, should the Government refuse to do so. Therefore the men were for the most part willing to provide part of the uniform necessary and those willing to take commissions as officers were expected to do the balance, which meant an expenditure of at least \$300 apiece for the latter. We shall await the outcome of the St. George's Rifle regiment movement, and if it suits the purpose we will become an integral part. My personal subscription of one hundred dollars to the formation of an English corps in Ottawa will stand good. We mean business and our course is all planned. As regards drilling the boys, I am in favor of forming them into a rifle and drum corps, as the majority prefer it. Some of the boys get enough drill at school."

Bro. Hooper has shown us his plans for the company he has been forming. It includes a signal corps and field telegraph section. He has already purchased the latest drill books and flags for signal purposes, as well as negotiated for arms and clothing. He showed a letter from the War Office, London, referring to the latest equipments, and offering to send out a pattern kersey, frock and trousers for the "khakee" uniform, now so largely used by British regiments on active service. It is dun brown in color; the belts are brown. He also has the uniform used in the Cape Mounted Rifles—a dead grass color. Both are very serviceable, and the very latest. The uniform of the Artists' Corps, London, is spoken of also as very desirable. It is a light grey with red trimmings.

Daughters of England.

The Daughters of England Benevolent Society contemplate the formation of an hospital board to be managed by ladies only.

Lodge Old England, No. 10, met in the lodge room, Shaftesbury hall. There was a large attendance of members and visitors present. Amongst the visitors present were Sister C. F. Smith, G.V.P., of Princess May lodge, Whitby; Bro. L. G. Cross, G.T., and Bro. Wm. Miles, president of Duchess of Kent Lodge. Business of a general character, with initiations and propositions occupied the attention of the members. The imposing initiation ceremony was conducted by Bro. L. G. Cross, G.T., and Bro. A. J. Watkins, W.P., of the lodge. A short address was given by Sister C. F. Smith, G.V.P., which was received with much applause.

Duchess of Kent lodge, No. 13, at their last meeting initiated three members. Bro. Moor, Lady Warwick lodge, and Sister Liday, Old England lodge, acted as scrutineers at the election of secretary and treasurer. Sister Mansell, jr., was elected secretary, and Sister Banger, treasurer. The trustees were unanimously elected as follows: Sister Mansell, senr., Sister Hutchinson and Bro. C. W. Aldred. The lodge has opened an account at the Dominion Bank with a deposit of \$94.52; all monies paid away now will be by cheque. The By-law Committee was instructed to submit them to the Grand Executive for approval. The president, Bro. Wm. Miles, by request of the lodge, tendered a hearty vote to Sister Terry and Bro. C. W. Aldred, as retiring secretary and treasurer. During recess Bro. Aldred took the chair, a very pleasant time was spent. Bro. Moor addressed the members and Sister Banger played a piano solo. Bro. Aldred gave one of his usual sweet songs. At the next meeting a full programme will be gone through.

TORONTO DISTRICT DEPUTIES.

PREPARING FOR THE COMING GRAND LODGE.

The Most Memorable in History. The district deputies for Toronto are already commencing to make arrangements for the next meeting of Grand Lodge, to be held in this city, which event promises in many ways to be the most memorable in the history of the order. It is now seven years since Toronto was selected for the annual meeting and delegates are expected representing lodges from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The members will not be backward in entertaining their visiting brethren and returning in some measure the kindness and good fellowship which has always been extended to them wherever Grand Lodge meet.

Kent Lodge has donated \$10 to the Lifeboat Fund, which Admiral Caddick has acknowledged with thanks. The District Deputy for Centre Toronto, Bro. F. H. Herbert, made his first official visit to Mercantile Lodge, No. 81, on Saturday evening last in their new lodge-room in St. George's Hall.

A Popular Record.

There were two propositions received, and one member, who formerly belonged to the lodge, resworn, he having desired to rejoin. The feature of the evening was the reading of the past quarter's audit report, from which the following is given. The roll consists of close upon 400 members. Payments to the sick and distressed \$230.22; payments to doctors, \$110.02; invested reserve, \$5,608.97. The balance to the credit of the lodge, 5,390.28.

The "Illustrious" Lodge.

Kent Lodge No. 3, had an unusually large attendance at their last meeting in Shaftesbury Hall. In fact there has lately been a marked improvement both in this respect and in the number of distinguished visitors, who with that true fraternal spirit, are always on hand to encourage with good counsel and advice. This is without doubt owing to the popularity of the worthy president, Bro. C. Russell, and his assistant officers, who have been conducting the initiations and business with a vim and snap that has made the "Illustrious" the most popular lodge in Centre Toronto. In addition to the president there were seated on the dais Bro. G. H. Evans, P.P. Mercantile; Bro. C. Meech, P.P. Manchester; Bro. Burk, Mercantile lodge; Bro. R. Caddick, P. G. P. Bro. E. H. Herbert, District Deputy, and many others. Initiation of candidates routine business of an important nature was transacted. The report of the lodge doctor re the sickness of the secretary, Bro. J. M. Williams, was presented which recommended his removal to the hospital for expert treatment. At conclusion of business votes of thanks were tendered the visitors and were responded to by the genial P.P. of Manchester lodge, Bro. C. Meech and Mercantile's standard bearer Bro. G. H. Evans, Bro. Hurd also favored the members with an address.

A good Example.

At the last meeting of Warwick Lodge \$5 was donated to the widow of the late Bro. Berry, and a like sum to a Hamilton brother who had gone to Manitoba and been burned out. Bro. W. George reported at the last meeting of Warwick Lodge that there were at that time not a member of the order in the hospital. There had been discharged a short time before. Warwick Lodge held its annual picnic to Victoria Park last Wednesday.

S. G. L. Officers' Visit.

Lodge Litchfield held a very successful meeting on Tuesday evening last. A contingent from lodges, London and Birmingham paid a fraternal visit, they were also honored with the presence of the S. G. P., Bro. Thos. Elliott, the S. G. V. P. Bro. J. A. Edwards and the P. S. G. P. Bro. W. R. Stroud. On account of the evening being very warm business was rushed, one candidate was initiated, and several propositions handed in. After the closing of the lodge refreshments were served in "ye olde English style." Speeches from the S. G. Officers, which was listened to attentively, and much appreciated. Songs and speeches from the members and visitors occupied the remainder of the evening.

Albion Lodge, No. 1.

Albion lodge met as usual on Thursday evening, in Shaftesbury Hall, the robust form of Bro. Howard in the chair. A goodly number being present considering the hot night. Two members were reported having met with accidents and five others on the sick list; the committee also reported the death of Bro. W. J. Richards, and a letter of condolence was ordered to be sent to the widow. The president reported on Rifle Brigade, and requested all those who wished to join to sign the roll, 28 names were added to the list at the close of the meeting.

PERSONAL.

Clarendon lodge, Ottawa, White Degree, will be held in Wellington Hall, Wellington street, on Thursday August 3rd, at 8 o'clock sharp. Initiation of candidates will take place.

We publish accounts in our present issue of the following new lodges of the Sons of England: "Monarch," Hochelaga, Que.; "Lydford," Belleville, Ont., and "Hammersmith," Toronto.

Bro. F. Beverley-Linden, president of Avondale lodge, Toronto, and family are visiting relations and camping on the Rideau a couple of miles out of Ottawa. Brother Linden visited several of the Ottawa lodges, and addressed the members.

Bro. Jas. Bond, an old and esteemed member of No. 1, Toronto, met with an accident last week, while coupling a trailer to a trolley, he received a very bad squeezing across the chest, which will confine him to the house for some time.

Bro. G. P. Carr, Wilberforce lodge, Vancouver, B.C., has been requested by the lodge to represent the ANGLO-SAXON. We trust the brethren of this influential lodge will respond to Bro. Carr's solicitations, and hand in their name and subscription.

Among our lodge cards this issue, will be found, in the Toronto list, lodge Cheltenham, No. 178. Geo. Clatworthy, president; A. J. Moreland, secretary. This new lodge has early learned the necessity of keeping itself before the Order by promptly inserting its card.

We have much pleasure in announcing to the brethren of Bowmanville, that we have the consent of Bro. A. M. James, past president, of Wellington lodge, No. 19, to represent the interest of the ANGLO-SAXON. We hope the brethren will rally to his solicitation, and give us a good increase for our subscription list.

Bro. J. M. Williams, secretary of Kent Lodge, Toronto, we are sorry to hear has been unfortunately deprived of his senses, through being pitched on his head from a motor car some weeks ago. It was thought he would recover, but as there was no improvement it was deemed advisable to place him in the asylum.

The combined Picnic Committee of the Toronto lodges intend to run an excursion to Hamilton on Civic Holiday, August 14th. The Macassa and Modjeska has been engaged. It is expected a large number will take advantage of the pleasant sail up the lake. We are sure the Hamilton Brethren will give the Toronto members a hearty welcome.

We regret to announce the death, in Toronto, on July 18th, of Bro. W. J. Richards, from the effects of a fall, which happened about seven months ago, at the Street Railway Car Sheds. He leaves a wife and three children. We understand he was not in the beneficiary, this should be an incentive to those not already in that department to join.

Bro. Herbert Sharpe, Toronto, met with a very serious accident last Monday, while working with a circular saw at the G. T. R. shops. In some unaccountable way he slipped and fell on it, cutting him down the right side in a dreadful manner. He was taken to the hospital, and is lying in a very critical state, very little hope is entertained of his recovery. He is a member of Albion lodge, and has a wife and three children.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

The Supreme Grand Secretary acknowledges the following donations, up to the 22nd July, with thanks. The appeal to the lodges is on behalf of Mrs. Berry and family, whom the Montreal brethren have taken in hand to support and educate:

- Worcester, \$5; St. George, \$5; Essex, \$1; Britannia, \$2; Kent, \$5; Richmond, \$3; Middlesex, \$5; Cambria, \$2; Wolverhampton, \$2; Hearts of Oak, \$5; Trafalgar, \$3; Southampton, \$5; Albion, \$3; Wellington, \$2; Manchester, \$5; Londesboro, \$1; United Empire, \$2; Thames, \$2; Nelson, \$2; Plymouth, \$2; Sheffield, \$3; Albert, \$10; Westward Ho, \$3; Cumberland, \$3.25; St. Asaph, \$3; Royal Standard, \$5; Victoria, \$1; Old England, \$5; Torbay, \$1; Canterbury, \$5; Rose of Couchiching, \$3; Hamilton, \$2; Truro, \$4; Brighton, \$2.50; Windsor, \$1; Bedford, \$3; Berkeley, \$1; Kensington, \$1; Neptune, \$5; Shakespeare, \$3; Leeds, \$2; Chester, \$2; Grimsby, \$3; Darlington, \$1.50; Launceston, \$2; Lichfield, \$2; Suffolk, \$2; Royal George, \$2; Surrey, \$4; Preston, \$2; An Englishman, \$1.

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