

the hope that something might be done through the presence of a member of the Supreme Council to overcome the difficulty which for the past three or four years has caused a total suspension of our work in that Province. Although I had the benefit of counsel and suggestions from Ill. Bro. PARTRIDGE, who visited the Province a few weeks before I did, and who foresaw obstacles in the way of success concerning which he gave me valuable information, I was unable to revive the dormant bodies of the Rite at Victoria. I had several interviews with our late Special Deputy in that Province, Bro. ELI HARRISON, 32°, and with a number of other brethren; and while, after a full examination of all the conditions, I was able to make up my mind as to the only possible course to pursue with any prospect of attaining success, I was not able to pursue that course; therefore the authority in the resolution of last session empowering me to confer the Thirty-third degree upon one or two brethren in that Province has not been exercised. In discussing the situation with Bro. HARRISON, he claimed that injustice was done him by the terms of my address to Supreme Council in 1888, in which year the office of Special Deputy for British Columbia was abolished and that Province placed in charge of our Illustrious Secretary-General. I assured Bro. HARRISON that no reflection whatever was intended upon him by my language, or by the action of the Supreme Council; and that the office which he held was abolished because the Supreme Council felt that the limited powers in the hands of a Special Deputy of the 32° were not sufficient to meet the needs of the Rite in the Province; for this reason, and this alone, British Columbia was placed in charge of a Sovereign Grand Inspector-General. This was far more advantageous than to make special legislation as to the time-limit between the giving of the degrees as had been more than once asked for by Bro. HARRISON in different reports made by him to Supreme Council. As a matter of fact leaving out of sight the personal grievance, the only complaint against the Supreme Council itself was that it had not authorized the bodies at Victoria to confer degrees at intervals of time under those prescribed by the Constitution. In two or three cases there may have been inconvenience and even expense to individuals by the time-limit, but generally the limit could have worked no hardship to the applicants for the degrees in or near Victoria. The real difficulty, the true cause of the existing condition is not in the Rite itself, but it originates in trouble which arose in another branch of the fraternity, and which, unhappily, created a sharp division among members of the Rite. I wish to say nothing which would have the effect of reviving the remembrance of past differences, and, therefore, go no further on this point, than to express my regrets that worthy brethren whom I met in Victoria—earnest, sincere and true Masons—are divided, and my fear that until time or unforeseen circumstances close the breach, or at least soften existing asperities, the bodies of the Rite in Victoria will not be revived. Nevertheless I did not deem it advisable to ask for the return of the warrants or the surrender of our rituals, preferring to leave that to the decision of the Supreme Council, which either may or may not so ask, or which may leave it discretionary with me to do so. The warrants and rituals are in the careful hands of Bro. GEORGE SARGISON, 18°, from whom and from Bro. HARRISON, sen., 32°, Bro. A. R. MILNE, 18°, and Bro. HENRY BROWN, 18°, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, and Grand Master MCKEOWN, I received courteous attention. I believe

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that good results will follow. The fact that the Supreme Council in the craft. Possibly the 27 members reported in 1888, there are now scarcely fifty, more than half would take up the responsibility of many evidences of an accident, and has for the performance of a take up the responsibility be, so far as Victoria is concerned, the rising city of Vancouver. Victoria. Bro. ISAAC is now a resident of that visit. There are two depended on to assist us the best interests of the WILLIAM DOWNIE, Grand on L. R. JOHNSTON, Master T. CARROLL, M. D., of little doubt whatever from I spent with them, the R add that while on the Pacific Ill. Bro. J. R. HAYDEN Washington, Southern Jur introducing some of our d his services at our disposal though I took the long feeling of dislike, I must a wide extent of country, beautiful, all of it interesting the craft on the Pacific prove as durable as they are

While on my way back Chapter and Consistory last year with regard to have been well kept. fully and comfortably, progress in restoring the p been admitted and a great 5° and 18° conferred in the brethren. Difficulties have now all disappeared, city. This has not been a labour and means on the part