

**VANCOUVER LODGE, No. 421, G.R. OF SCOTLAND  
(Now Vancouver and Quadra Lodge, No. 2, G.R.B.C.)**

**HISTORICAL NOTES 1864-68**

**By Wor. Brother F. F. Fatt**

In 1933, I submitted some notes upon the history of this Lodge during the year 1862-3 (G.L. Report 1933, pp. 162-181). I propose to continue these notes to 1868, covering the most interesting details only.

Many events of importance were happening during this period. There was Civil War in the United States. The Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia were amalgamated under the name of the latter in 1866, which became part of the Dominion of Canada in 1871.

Prominent in the negotiations which resulted in the admission of the Colony into Confederation, was Dr. I. W. Powell, the Master of Vancouver Lodge. As one of the delegates from British Columbia, it was necessary for him to go to Ottawa with the others, and there the terms of Union were settled. With him went Brother H. E. Seelye, formerly Secretary of the Lodge, as correspondent for the Colonist Newspaper at Victoria.

During the years in question, there were four Masters of the Lodge. Dr. Powell occupied that position during the years 1863-4 and 5, N. J. Neustadt in 1866, R. H. Adams in 1867, and M. W. Waitt in 1868.

In the first instalment of this history, I have given some particulars of the life of Dr. Powell. Neustadt was a merchant from London, Eng. He affiliated with the Lodge from United Tradesman Lodge, No. 853 of that city. Adams was a hatter by trade, and had first received the light in Masonry in our Lodge. His son, Frank Adams—now 77 years of age—is a member of Peace River Lodge, No. 89, Peace River, Alberta. M. W. Waitt kept a bookstore at the southeast corner of Government Street and Trounce Alley with music as a sideline.

On January 20, 1864, the Charter for the Lodge was received from Scotland. Though it was defective in some points, it was retained instead of being sent back via the long voyage around the Horn. Many petitions for initiation were received during the year.

On the 31st January the first Masonic funeral by the Lodge took place. It was that of Brother James Beattie, a member of the Lodge of Edinburgh, Mary's Chapel, No. 1, of Edinburgh, Scotland. Wor. Brother Powell presided and the expenses were paid by Victoria Lodge and Vancouver Lodge in equal shares. The account for the expenses was sent to Brother Beattie's Mother Lodge, which replied as follows:

"This Lodge (Edinburgh, No. 1) considers that the true exercise of charity, one of the fundamental principles of the Order requires all to contribute towards the relief of their distressed, deserving Brethren, according to the necessities of the case and their own ability, without right of relief against others; that charity so called, ceases to be such when administered in expectation of re-imbusement."

Among the Petitions received in February was that of Hugh Bowsby Willson Aikman. Brother Aikman was at one time a member of the firm of solicitors of Drake, Jackson and Helmcken at Victoria. Later he became District Registrar of Titles at New Westminster. After a number of years faithful service there, he became Registrar of Titles in the Land Office at Victoria, resigning this office in December, 1903. He died in this city on July 25, 1904.



Brother Francis J. Barnard, a native of Quebec, came to British Columbia in 1859. After a varied experience, he established Barnard's Express for freight and passengers over the Cariboo Road from Yale to Barkerville. In 1866, he bought out Dietz and Nelson and extended his business to Victoria. He died in 1889. He did not become a member of No. 2. His petition had to be referred to Union Lodge at New Westminster for a waiver of jurisdiction, and later he joined Quadra Lodge. He was the father of Sir Francis Barnard at one time Governor of British Columbia, late deceased, and Senator G. H. Barnard.

On March 16, Brother Geo. H. Coe, who had affiliated with the Lodge from Orofino Lodge in California, decided to leave Victoria and asked for a dimit. It was through him that the jewels and working tools were bought in San Francisco. He must have been popular with the members of the Lodge, for they unanimously elected him an Honorary Life Member, the first to be elected by the Lodge, and the necessary certificate was printed and engrossed at a cost of \$11.00. On April 26, 1867, Brother Coe re-visited his old Lodge, and at the Master's request, conferred the First Degree upon Constantine Astrico. After leaving Victoria in 1864 he went to Idaho and affiliated with a Lodge there, and later became the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Idaho.

The steamer from San Francisco continued to disturb the Lodge, on Wednesday evenings. On April 13, it was in the middle of conferring the Second Degree, when it had to break off short so that the members could meet the steamer and go to the Post Office, but it re-assembled the next evening to finish up the work.

Some discussions were had during this year in respect to the building of a new Masonic Temple, but nothing was accomplished.

Abraham Blackman, partner in Blackman and Marks, Hardware and Crockery, 14 Yates Street, was Treasurer of the Lodge for this year. He left the Province, leaving his business affairs in the hands of his partner. Owing to his absence, the Worshipful Master was empowered to withdraw the money and place it in one of the banks and appoint a Treasurer, pro tem. The money was paid over to the Lodge by his partner, and duly deposited as directed.

In September, the Brethren came to the opinion that the Lodge should have a library, and \$75.00 was sent to Messrs. Appleton and Co. of New York. The condition of the currency in the United States at that time will be seen by the fact that for the \$75.00 sent, Appleton's credited the Lodge on their books for \$163.62. They sent books to the value of \$110.09, and held \$53.53 to the credit of the Lodge.

Thirty-six volumes were also purchased from Abraham E. Cutter at a cost of \$54.52. At different times, various members of the Lodge made presents of books to the Masonic library, but no one now knows their whereabouts.

Installation of Wor. Brother Powell as Master of the Lodge took place on St. John's Day, 1864, under the charge of Wor. Brothers Burnaby, William Jeffray and Thomas Harris, all of Victoria Lodge. After the installation, a ball was held by the two Lodges. It gave great pleasure to the Brethren and their ladies, but the receipts did not cover the expenses, and the small balance was paid by the two Lodges in equal shares.

In January, 1865, Brother Uzal G. Warbass, a member of Olympia Lodge, No. 1, Washington Territory, died in Cariboo. His body was brought from Barkerville to Victoria and shipped to Olympia on the "Eliza Anderson." There it was buried with full Masonic rites. A resolution was passed by his Lodge in a "Lodge of Sorrow," in the following terms:

"After unremitting effort, with Herculean strength, thro a wilderness rendered almost impassable by deep snows, our Brethren have now deposited at the house of the widow, the remains of our deceased Brother therefore;"

continuing with the Lodge's thanks to Wor. Brother Jonathan Nutt, of Cariboo Lodge, No. 469 S.C., at Barkerville and to Captain Jno. R. Fleming of the "Eliza Anderson." Printed copies of this resolution were distributed along the Pacific Coast.

Chas. W. Allen, a printer on the Victoria Express at the same time that R.W. Brother Monroe Miller was "printer's devil," was raised in Vancouver Lodge on April 15, 1863. On February 15, he applied for a dimit as he was returning to England. He made us a short visit in September, 1924, on his way back to England from a trip to New Zealand.

In May, Wor. Brother John Boyd, of Lodge Union and Crown, No. 307, of Barrhead, Scotland, wrote to the Lodge, saying that he had come from Scotland, where he had held responsible positions. He had built a house at the top of Pavilion Mountain for the accommodation of travellers, but as is well known, most of those on the way to Cariboo went by way of Yale, Lytton and Clinton, and did not pass over Pavilion Mountain. He was obliged to give up his house and return to the sea again. The Lodge voted \$50.00 for his relief.

In July, the Lodge received a petition from Simeon Duck, step-father of our late Wor. Brother Monroe Miller. He was a native of St. Catharines, in Ontario, and came to British Columbia in the spring of 1859. He was twice elected as Member for Victoria in the Local Legislature, and in 1885 was Finance Minister. He also became Master of the Lodge in 1868-9 and in 1874-5 was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

In August, Brother Jas. Curtis applied for payment of \$25.00 due for balance of melodeon sold to the Lodge. I find no mention in the books of an organist having been appointed by the Lodge, but in March, 1863, a subscription was taken up for a musical instrument and \$165.50 subscribed for that purpose.

In September, Brother Bradley Gregory, surgeon on "HMS. Devastation," a F.C. of Bethesda Lodge of Valparaiso, Chile, applied for the M.M. Degree, which was conferred on him on October 25.

On November 15, Rev. Thos. Somerville of Athole Lodge, No. 413, Glasgow, applied for affiliation and was duly received. He was the Minister at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Victoria, and was for a time Chaplain of the Lodge.

On December 6, a meeting was held to decide as to how the festival of St. John's Day should be spent. One resolution proposed that a celebration should be held in the Lodge room and that Rev. Mr. Somerville be requested to give an address followed by a collection for the Benevolent Fund. This was not approved, and it was decided that the two Lodges should together have a ball, it being understood that no expense of same should fall on the Lodges.



On December 20, the By-laws of the Lodge were finally adopted after long consideration. Brother N. J. Neustadt was installed as Master. Times were hard, people were leaving the Province, and applications for dimits were numerous. Mr. Wm. Haynes, Bandmaster, applied for initiation. He remained a member until his death on July 22, 1930. He was the father of Brother E. M. Haynes, still a member of the Lodge.

As the Lodge now had a Chaplain, it was necessary to have a jewel for his collar, so the Lodge bought one from Ed. Watson for \$5.00. Dr. Powell was presented with a Past Master's jewel, and he rightfully deserved it.

The ball was held in the Sing Verein Hall, and was more successful financially than the year before. Ninety-six tickets were sold at \$3.00 each, and after all expenses were paid, a balance of \$48.24 was divided between the two Lodges for their Benevolent Funds.

The two Lodges became dissatisfied with the room in which they were meeting, and they met and decided to lease Captain Stamp's Hall at \$85.00 per month for a five-year lease, the two Lodges to fit up the hall as they desired. This hall was on Government Street, on the site now occupied by View Street, and the sign "Masonic Hall" remained on the old building for many years after it ceased to be used as such.

On June 13, 1866, Wor. Brother Lumley Franklin of Victoria Lodge, with his Officers, and many Brothers, paid us a fraternal visit. There was a large attendance, and I am sure that a happy evening was spent by all. It is pleasant to note how harmoniously the two Lodges at that time worked together. If any charitable work was to be done, they shared the expenses evenly between them.

One transient, of Corinthian Lodge, No. 101, Peterboro, Ontario, was ill for 12 months and was maintained by the Lodges at the Pacific Telegraph Hotel on Store Street, between Herald and Fisgard Streets, Astrico and Co., proprietors. When the poor chap died of smallpox and was buried, they only asked his Lodge to pay the funeral expenses.

On June 5, a joint committee of the two Lodges made and brought in the following resolutions, which were duly passed: That a committee from both Lodges be formed to join in fitting up the Lodge room; that the new Lodge room be dedicated in ancient Masonic form on the day following St. John's Day in June, and that the Worshipful Masters of each Lodge, with their immediate Past Masters be the committee to arrange the ceremony; that the Lodges meet on the day appointed and attend divine service in Brother Somerville's Church and that Brother Somerville be requested to preach; and that a Masonic banquet take place on the evening of the celebration, the price of tickets to be left to the Committee, and that the Officers of Union Lodge, New Westminster, and of the new Lodge at Nanaimo, be invited to the ceremony and banquet, and that the Grand Master of Washington Territory and his Deputy and Grand Lecturer be invited also.

On motion of Wor. Brother Dr. Powell, the thanks of the Lodge were conveyed to Victoria Lodge for its liberality in handing over everything of a purely Masonic character to the new Hall for the joint benefit of the two Lodges.

Then came the great day, June 25, 1866, when 93 Free Masons met for the last time in the old Lodge room at the corner of Langley and Yates Streets. A provisional Grand Lodge was formed under Wor.



Brother Robert Burnaby, R.W.M., of the day, with 35 appointed officers under him, all carrying their appointed emblems and vessels, Brother Chief Justice David Cameron carrying the Holy Bible, the volunteer band in attendance. There were two "standard bearers" of the two Lodges, Brothers J. G. Mackay with that of Victoria Lodge and H. F. Heisterman carrying the banner of Vancouver Lodge which had been paid for by voluntary subscriptions amounting to \$43.00. I have no doubt but that Victoria Lodge's banner cost as much. What has become of these banners? I am sure that they were elaborate and beautiful and meant to be carried in procession, for I find a receipt for a "strap and socket for the flag." Apparently, they are gone with the library.

The church at the corner of Pandora and Blanshard Streets was crowded and the sermon was preached by Rev. Thos. Somerville, who founded his discourse upon the lives of the two Sts. John. I have a printed copy of the sermon which was generously distributed along the Pacific Coast. After the service, the procession wended its way to the new hall, which was then properly dedicated according to Masonic usage. The expenses of the parade to church were \$84.25 (don't forget the band) and this was paid, by Wor. Brother J. J. Southgate giving \$50.00, the surplus of the banquet which followed, \$21.25, and the two Lodges making up the deficit of \$13.00.

The banquet provided by Brother Driard, I am sure, was a fine one, 86 sat down and tickets were \$1.50, a most reasonable price when you consider the menu. These prices may be interesting—4 c/s Sherry \$20.00; 10 Gal. Ale \$6.00; 8 c/s Claret \$26.00. Some of the Brethren, however, namely, Brothers Burnaby, Stewart and Captain Stamp did not consider this enough so each of them gave a case of champagne!!

The fitting up of the hall cost \$511.00, which was paid in equal shares by the two Lodges.

On September 19, 1866, a letter was read from Brother J. Spencer Thompson, of Williams Creek, Cariboo, a member of San Francisco Lodge, No. 7, California, asking the Lodge to endorse the opening of a Lodge at Williams Creek or Richfield under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Washington Territory, and stating also that Union Lodge at New Westminster had refused such recommendation, and had advised the Cariboo Brethren to seek a charter from the Grand Lodge of England. This Lodge expressed its sympathy but pointed out the irregularity of the proposed proceedings. Apparently, the three Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland claimed equal and concurrent jurisdiction in "Colonial" territory, otherwise unorganized Masonically, but each and all would resist and resent usurpation by other Grand Lodges.

On January 16, 1867, Brother Jonathan Nutt attended the Lodge and I am sure that at this time he brought down with him a Petition addressed to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, praying for the establishment of a Masonic Lodge at Barkerville, Williams Creek, B.C., to be named "Cariboo Lodge." The Petition is signed by the following Brethren, with the offices which they were presumed to take, and where possible, the Lodges to which they had belonged before coming to British Columbia.

Jonathan Nutt, R.W.M., Western Star Lodge, No. 2, Shasta, Calif.,  
B. P. Anderson, W.S.M., Olympia Lodge No. 1 Washington Territory;  
D. McNaughton, W.D.M., Durham Lodge, No. 66, G.R. Can., Newcastle, Ontario;  
W. E. Boone, W.S.W., Hennepin Lodge, No. 4, Minneapolis, Minn.;  
Geo. G. Ruby, W.J.W., Kircaldie Lodge, No. 72, Kircaldie, G.L.



Scot.; John Patterson, Treasurer, Manzanita Lodge No. 102, Calif.; J. M. Cochrane, Secretary, United Lodge, No. 998, Welchpool, Welshport, G.L., Eng.; John Muir, S.D., St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 126, Kilmarnock, G.L. Scot.; J. C. Campbell, J.D., Doric Lodge, No. 58, Ottawa, G.L. Can. (in Ontario); William Bennett, I.G., Glasgow Star Lodge, No. 219, Glasgow, G.L.Sc.; David B. Louis, Tyler, St. Louis Lodge, No. 86; William H. Hill, Alymer Lodge, No. 138, ; Wm. H. Fitzgerald, Albion Lodge, No. 17 G.L., Eng.; J. Spencer Thompson, San Francisco Lodge, No. 7, G.L., Cal.

This Petition was endorsed by the three principal Officers of Vancouver Lodge and shortly afterwards a Charter was granted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Scotland, under Rt. Wor. Brother Powell, to Cariboo Lodge, which afterwards became No. 469, S.C., and this Lodge continued in close connection with Vancouver Lodge for many years, and is now Cariboo Lodge, No. 4.

The first Lodge of Instruction was organized in September, 1866, and apparently was kept up for some years. At first, it was confined to members of Vancouver Lodge only, but was later thrown open to others upon payment of the usual fees.

On October 10, 1866, M.W. Brother T. M. Reed, Grand Master of Washington Territory with four other members of his Grand Lodge, paid a fraternal visit. It may be said that the Grand Lodges of Washington, Oregon and California, kept closely in touch with both Victoria Lodges. They notified us of all suspensions and rejections, and we in turn kept them informed of our movements. Frequently visits were paid backwards and forwards and the proceedings of the Grand Lodges were always sent to us for our library.

On November 26, a committee was appointed to join with Victoria Lodge to arrange for celebration of St. John's Day, and on December 19, Brother R. H. Adams was elected Wor. Master and Brother H. E. Seelye, Secretary, succeeding Brother H. F. Heisterman. Brother Seelye was an accountant who affiliated in September, 1866, from St. George's Lodge, No. 912, England. Brother Heisterman was the father of our present member Brother B. S. Heisterman. Mrs. H. F. Heisterman is still with us and on January 3, 1937, was 95 years old. This Lodge showed its affection for her by a floral offering.

The Masonic Ball that year was held at the St. Nicholas Hotel, 111 Government Street, almost opposite the present New England Hotel. Brother E. C. Holden was the proprietor at that time. The ball was a great success and left a cash balance of some \$20.00 which was expended in buying a book case for the library used by the two Lodges.

It will interest our present Brethren to note the prices paid those days for the ingredients for a Masonic supper: Lemons cost \$1.25 per dozen; Raisins 37½c a lb.; crushed sugar 25c lb.; assorted sweets, 10 lbs. \$7.00; 5 lbs. "snapping mottoes" \$4.25; 6 gals. claret \$6.00; 3 doz. wine \$7.50; 15 gals. ale \$7.50. Soapstone \$2.00 (I suppose for the dance floor). The eatables were chicken, ducks, grouse, tongue, ham and beef, besides pastry, etc.

I have several receipted bills from the Victoria Gas Co. and find the following note printed on the accounts very intriguing:

"In cold weather the Meter and Service Pipe should be protected by suitable covering from the action of the frost, and thus the inconvenience of the light going out from that cause will be prevented.

The Inspector is instructed to substitute alcohol for water in the Meters, when furnished with the article by and at the expense of the consumer. The ordinary kind of whiskey will answer this purpose."

The bills were presented and collected on the Tuesday of each week and the price charged was \$7.50 per thousand cubic feet.

On January 16, 1867, the application of William Dalby was accepted. He was then 27 years old, and a tanner by trade. He was elected Wor. Master in 1871 and Grand Master in 1885. He served as Mayor of the City of Victoria in the years 1873 and 1874. He was an uncle of our present member, Brother R. S. Dalby.

About the same time, Brother J. H. Turner affiliated with the Lodge. He had been a merchant near Ipswich in England. He came to Halifax, N.S. where he remained for two years and then removed to Charlottetown, P.E.I. In 1862, he came to British Columbia. He was a member of Victoria Lodge, No. 383, of Charlottetown, now No. 2 on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of that Jurisdiction. He later became Premier of B.C. and for many years, Agent General for the Province in London. He founded the firm of Turner, Beeton and Co.

On February 20, Francis Campbell was accepted as a member. He was a tobacconist and kept that old store at Yates and Government Streets known as "Campbell's Corner," well-known to all old timers.

About the same time, the Lodge recommended the application for a Charter for British Columbia Lodge to the Grand Lodge of England. This Lodge later amalgamated with Victoria Lodge. By June the new Lodge was well started and agreed to use the same Lodge room as other Lodges did, paying one-third of the rent.

St. John the Baptist's Day was celebrated by divine service in St. Andrew's Church, Rev. Brother Thos. Somerville officiating.

On July 17, there were four petitions for initiation and two for affiliation. These were from Wor. Brothers Lumley, Franklin and George Pearkes, Past Masters of Victoria Lodge. To have members of such prominence leave one Lodge and go to the other seems to foreshadow the troubles between the two Lodges over the question of the formation of the Grand Lodge at a later date.

In August, a transient brother by the name of Cantrill died, and was buried by Victoria Lodge with the assistance of this Lodge. The two Lodges defrayed the expenses.

In September, a proper catalogue was ordered for the library, and the book cases were ordered enlarged. Brother Heisterman presented us with more books for the library.

On November 6, an Emergent Communication was called to receive a Petition from Patrick Whelan, Ship's Steward on H.M.S. "Scout," because the ship had been ordered away. He was given his three degrees in nine days! From this has sprung up the special provisions for soldiers and sailors in our Constitution. [By-laws from the first ordered that the dues of soldiers and sailors should be one-half ordinary rates].

The usual Ball was given on the 27th December; Officers of the other two Lodges invited.



December 18 was the Election of Officers, and the reference to it in the Minutes is not nice reading. It will surprise Masons of the present time to know that nominations were made of candidates for the office of Worshipful Master. No less than four nominations were made. Wor. Brother Adams was re-nominated; also Junior Warden, Brother M. W. Waitt; E. C. Holden, Senior Warden; and Simeon Duck, Senior Deacon. After the first ballot, Brothers Holden and Duck retired and upon the fourth ballot Brother Waitt was elected by one vote.

On December 27, installation ceremony was performed by Rt. Wor. Brother Powell, and Past Master's Jewel presented to the outgoing Master.

There is no reference to any Ball this year. Apparently it was not held.

On February 26, 1868, the Lodge received a fraternal visit from Victoria Lodge, no less than 24 members attending. When the Lodge was sitting, M.W. Brother Elwood Evans of Washington, and Rt. Wor. Brother Powell entered the Lodge and were received with grand honors. M.W. Brother Evans conferred the First Degree upon a candidate at the request of the Wor. Master.

Early in the year 1868, G. C. Keays moved that the salaries of the Secretary and Tyler be raised and the motion carried. Brother Keays was a tinsmith, who had affiliated from Union Lodge, New Westminster, in January, 1868. He was Wor. Master of Vancouver Lodge, in 1870. He was not long a member for he disappeared into the U.S. soon after his service as Wor. Master. Many years later, he turned up again in British Columbia, and died in the Old Men's Home at Kamloops.

In July, Brother G. C. Keays moved that at each and every meeting of the Lodge the Minutes should be read in open Lodge before closing. This, of course, was defeated.

In September, the Provincial Grand Lodge (Scottish) asked for a loan from the Lodge of \$500.00 for the purpose of helping to buy Grand Lodge regalia. This was granted, charging the usual rate of interest—1% per month.

On April 8, the Secretary announced that he was going to be away for some time in the Cariboo country, and Brother R. B. Powell was appointed as his substitute during his absence. He was then 19 years of age, for the By-laws at that time permitted candidates to be admitted at the age of 18 years. To the best of my information, Bro. R. B. Powell was no relation of Dr. I. W. Powell.

The Lodges at Nanaimo invited the Lodge to attend the dedication of their new Hall on November 4.

On November 15, the funeral of the late Brother Paul Medana, District Grand Organist of the Grand Lodge of England, took place at the old Quadra Street Cemetery. Each of the two old Lodges contributed \$25.00 for the improvement of this cemetery. Many years later, there was some discussion in the Lodge on the condition of Masonic graves in the old cemetery, and I think some money was spent in putting them in order.

In December of the same year, a set of jewels was donated by the Lodge to Mount Hermon Lodge, Burrard Inlet.

This year, Brother Simeon Duck was unanimously elected Wor. Master and Brother R. B. Powell, Secretary.



It was resolved to have a Ball on St. John's Night, but it was postponed to January 4, 1869, owing to the untimely death of Brother Trahey, W. M. Elect, of Victoria Lodge.

It will be remembered that there was general dissatisfaction for a time with the Grand Lodge of Scotland, on account of the difficulty of dealing with superiors so far away. Although matters went more smoothly after the establishment of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Scotland and the District Grand Lodge of England, yet the Brethren were still dissatisfied, and most of them were eager for an independent Grand Lodge of British Columbia. This feeling was demonstrated in Vancouver Lodge more than in any other, while Victoria Lodge was generally against the proposition, so much so, that those Brethren who were in favour of the B.C. Grand Lodge and were members of Victoria Lodge felt very uncomfortable. It has been noted that two of their Past Masters left the Lodge and affiliated with this Lodge. A short time afterwards, another Past Master left them—Eli Harrison, Sr. It is, therefore, astonishing to read what Rt. Wor. Brother L. Watts Doney wrote into his "Historical Sketch" [Proceedings of G.L. 1921]—"The Records of Victoria Lodge show by the records of a Regular Meeting, December 16, 'that it was strongly in favour of a B.C. Grand Lodge'." Also he says, "The Lodges under the Grand Lodge of England, expecting of course Victoria Lodge, *at whose instance the movement started*, viewed the representations unfavourably." This is incorrect. It was Vancouver Lodge which was at the forefront of this movement, and to whom we are indebted, more than to any other Lodge, for our Grand Lodge of British Columbia, and it was Victoria Lodge which tried to halt the movement. All Masons who have a copy of the Proceedings of 1921 are asked to turn to pages 174 and 175 and alter their copies accordingly.

I am afraid that it was this difference of opinion in the two Lodges which brought rather a tension between them. Hitherto they had worked so harmoniously together, that it was a pity this rift should appear. It is not generally known, I think, that in the early days, Victoria Lodge held its meetings "on the Thursday nearest the full moon."

At the meeting of December 16, 1868, notice was given by Wor. Brother R. H. Adams that at the next regular meeting, he would present a motion which is really the Charter of our present Grand Lodge, showing clearly the reasons which underlaid the movement for a Grand Lodge in British Columbia, and which is of permanent importance to all members of the Craft and I think should be preserved as our Magna Carta. It reads as follows:

1. That there are at present in the Colony of British Columbia, a Provincial Grand Lodge of Free Masons under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and a District Grand Lodge under that of the Grand Lodge of England.

2. That under these Provincial and District Grand Lodges, there are only Eight Subordinate Lodges (one under Dispensation) representing numerically a Brotherhood of about Three Hundred.

3. That the support of these two Provincial and District Grand Lodges—in addition to the transmission of Grand Lodge Fees to both Mother Grand Lodges in Scotland and England—causes a drain upon the funds of the subordinate Lodges, so great as to prevent their accumulation for any local benevolent or other purposes calculated to advance the interests and happiness of the Order in this Colony.



4. That the existence of the two Grand Lodges, or financially speaking four Grand Lodges, tends (besides scattering the funds) to create jealousies and rivalry highly injurious to what would otherwise be a happy and united Brotherhood, to open our portals to the unworthy, and dissipate strength and resources which combined, would fully establish, support and amply provide for the permanent success and prosperity of one Independent Grand Lodge.

5. That the decisions and edicts of the Provincial and District Grand Lodge, are unsatisfactory, inasmuch as they are not final and may be appealed from, and the great distance of England or Scotland from the Colony, the uncertain mail communication, and the delays which are apt to, and do occur in correspondence, causing often vexatious repetition, so as entirely to prevent the good results which would accrue from the establishment of Grand Lodge authority in this Colony.

6. That the formation of an Independent Grand Lodge in British Columbia, uniting the Brethren of both Jurisdictions under one Grand authority, responsible to themselves, would at once ensure harmony and promote the success and prosperity of all, retain monies in one Grand Lodge for our own Masonic purposes which are now exacted by four Grand Lodges—two of which are Ten Thousand miles distant—and enable us at once to command the respect and hearty co-operation of sister Independent Grand Lodges throughout the world.

7. That a Committee be appointed to confer with all sister Lodges upon the subject of the foregoing resolutions and to recommend the best means of carrying them to effect, either by calling a General Convention of the Craft, or otherwise as may seem most expedient.

This brings me to the end of our first Minute Book and to the beginning of the fight for a Grand Lodge for British Columbia. It was not until October 21, 1871—nearly three years afterwards, that the desire of the Brethren of Vancouver Lodge was fulfilled. Perhaps I may be allowed to continue my researches at a later date.

Before closing, I would like to mention once more the first Master Mason to be raised in our Lodge—Major William Downie. In my last paper [G.L. report 1933, p. 171] I said that he died in Nanaimo and was buried there. This is not correct. I have since discovered that after many drawbacks and real struggles, the Major was invited to go to San Francisco, and take charge of an exhibit at the San Francisco Exhibition, being a representation of an old time Mining Camp there erected. The old man was delighted, and started by sea from Victoria to San Francisco; when the ship was entering the Golden Gate, the excitement and joy was too great for him and his gallant old heart played out—stopped—and his lifeless body was taken off the ship and buried at San Francisco. A model of his old cabin at Downieville was erected at the Mining Camp at the Exhibition "Days of '49" and was draped in black in his memory. This took place in 1893.

Upon motion, it was

*Resolved* that the report of the Grand Historian be received and printed in the Proceedings, that the Grand Lodge express deep appreciation of the valuable work done by the Grand Historian, and that he be requested to carry on the good work."