

Portland Elks, and Their Work.

Roosevelt, of New York, may be induced to attend, and earnest efforts are now making toward that end. Governor Roosevelt is not only a Rough Rider and the Republican Vice-President nominee, but a prominent member of the Order of Elks as well.

Portland Lodge, 142.

Portland Lodge, No. 142, B. P. O. E., was organized November 1, 1883. The first officers were: Exalted Ruler, George H. Rivers; leading knight, C. F. Sliter; esteemed royal knight, Dr. C. W. Cornelius; esteemed lecturing knight, Ward S. Stev-

len. Their visits were made red-letter occasions.

The Portland Elks' lodgeroom is a fine one, and is located in the Marquam Grand building. It has a seating capacity for fully 600 people. The lodge has frequent social sessions, most of which are open; it has, too, its "stag" sessions, to which only the Antlered Brotherhood members are admitted.

The Elks' "Memorial Day," formerly known as the "Lodge of Sorrow," is held annually on the first Sunday in December. The address is ordinarily made by

some one not a member—usually a clergyman. It is semi-religious in its nature, and is devoted to eulogies upon deceased Elks. The ceremonies are solemn, beautiful and impressive. As the name of one is called who has solved the infinite mystery of this life which ends but in death, there is a mournful tap upon the gong—the signal call of the roll of the dead. Always the first name called is that of Charles Vivian, the founder of the order. At St. Vincent's Hospital, Portland, there is a room donated and equipped by a Seattle Elk for the accommodation of ailing brothers. When a newcomer at the hospital is ascertained to be an Elk, he is at once placed in this room. The Portland Lodge officers are notified, and a committee is appointed to look after the unfortunate one. A severe penalty is imposed upon any Elk disclosing the name of one to whom relief has been given.

The Golden Rule.

The Elks is a consistent order. It lives up to its professions. It teaches love of the home, and practices the golden rule. It gives cheer to the despondent and relief to the distressed. It dispels pain with pleasure, gives smiles for tears, laughter for grief. Every Elk must believe in a Supreme Being, or he cannot become a member of the order. Every Elk subscribes to the broad and liberal platform, among whose planks are numbered those of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Upon this can stand to-

The Helping Hand



The Absent Brother



HE Order of Elks has been more misunderstood, more censured and more abused by those who do not know than any other organization in existence; on the other hand, it has been and is more praised and more commended and more loved by those who do know it than is any other organization. Many people have thought that it was merely a convivial organization, with no serious purposes or objects. This is a great mistake. It is convivial, and its members are not afraid to laugh and enjoy life. We believe that the man who laughs is better fitted to do great good than he otherwise would be.

These were the words of John Galvin, grand exalted ruler of the order, and were spoken at the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the grand lodge, held at St. Louis, Mo., June 25-27, 1898. Those fully acquainted with the noble purposes of the B. P. O. E.—the people who have noted the broad-minded, unostentatious charity which characterizes it—will readily endorse Mr. Galvin's words.

It needs but a cursory examination of the roster of Portland Lodge, No. 142, to note that its membership roll contains the names of many of Portland's best known citizens. One of the strongest characteristics of Elks everywhere is the energetic interest they take in all public affairs. Whatever tends toward the advancement of the community where they reside, there the Elks are always to be found in its support. They are loyal to the interests of their city and are always foremost, with their shoulders to the wheel. Any project that is for the advantage of Portland is certain to receive the endorsement of the local Elks. If it's "a good thing," they are ever ready to "push it along." They are equally ready to co-operate as to originate.

Six years ago a famous "Society Circus" was given in this city, under the auspices of the First Regiment, O. N. G. That memorable event continued for three nights, with one matinee performance, and netted \$1800. This was utilized in the discharge of a burden of indebtedness that had accumulated against the regiment. Individual Elks were asked to assist. They readily responded, and furnished not a few of the star performers. The lodge, itself, attended in a body.

A Society Held Its Breath. The marvelous antics on horseback by Sanford A. Whiting, as a daring equestrian, were greeted with great eclat.

Society fairly held its breath at the great aggregation—B. B. Tuttle, late Adjutant-General; George C. Holman, Major Hiram E. Mitchell and ex-Adjutant-General R. W. Mitchell.

It is of interest to note how the Portland Elks came to take up the Portland Street Fair and Carnival idea. Beginning with the Fall of 1891, and continuing for five years, Portland has held regularly every Fall, an annual exposition. When the Elks learned that it had been determined to omit the yearly event this Fall, they decided to launch the carnival enterprise, which will make this city the Mecca of many thousands of people, from September 4 to September 15. It took courage to assume the undertaking, but the Portland Elks are equal to such requirements. To provide attractions to fill so great a space as that arranged for, taking in the entire width of Sixth street, from curb to curb, and reaching from Yamhill to Ankeny street, a distance of seven blocks, seemed difficult of accomplishment. The Elks will make it an unquestioned success.

By the energetic action of such Portland Elks as A. D. Charlton, John F. Cordray and D. Solis Cohen, and guided by the helpful suggestions of Denver Elks, some splendid attractions have been secured for the event in the East. It is more within the scope of the news department of The Oregonian than that of the present article to note these in detail. Suffice it to say, that the "Midway" features will embrace the best selections from street fairs in Eastern cities and in California.

Disinterested Labor. It is a just tribute to the Portland Elks to say that through all this labor of carnival preparation, no idea of personal advancement or gain has been thought of. The work is one of pure disinterestedness. If Portland is to be benefited, and the coming visitors, as well as city residents, shall be amused and entertained, the Elks will be perfectly satisfied.

More mention of some of the leading spirits of the carnival enterprise is a guarantee of its success, as they are all business men, and will conduct this great event after business methods. Among them are H. C. Bowers, A. D. Charlton, John F. Cordray, E. W. Rowe, R. W. Mitchell, Ralph E. Moody, George Good, ex-Mayor Storey, James Morris, John Lamont, Thomas McNamee, D. Solis Cohen, George E. Chamberlain and W. H. Upson.

It is hinted that the Portland Elks may take part in the dedication of the fountain in the Plaza, early in September, which D. P. Thompson has presented to the city. It is hoped that Governor

ens; secretary, Louis Dammasch; treasurer, C. V. Farleman; tyler, E. W. Quimby; esquire, J. W. McNamara.

The present officers of the local branch are: Exalted ruler, Alex Sweek; esteemed leading knight, George E. Chamberlain; esteemed loyal knight, John Lamont; esteemed lecturing knight, H. C. Hipple; secretary, Louis Dammasch; treasurer, A. D. Charlton; tyler, O. H. Crabb; esquire, "Sig" Westheimer; inner guard, W. A. Hart. The trustees are: T. B. Howes, T. B. McDewitt and W. H. Upson.

Since the lodge was organized, the following named persons have held the office of exalted ruler: J. W. McNamara, Dr. H. B. Littlefield, C. H. Clute, George C. Sears, D. Solis Cohen, R. W. Mitchell, M. L. Tiehner, Frank C. Baker, R. E. Moody and H. D. Griffin. During its existence, Portland Lodge has been honored with the membership of many men prominent in state, municipal and business affairs. Among these may be mentioned: ex-Governor W. P. Lord, ex-Senator John H. Mitchell, ex-Mayor W. E. Mason, now deceased; ex-Mayor George P. Frank, ex-Mayor W. A. Storey, Hon. F. A. Moore, Justice of the Supreme Court; ex-Attorney-General George E. Chamberlain; ex-Attorney-General C. M. Ideman, County Judge W. M. Cake, Frank D. Hennessy, ex-Municipal Judge; Senator Alex Sweek, R. D. Inman, Dr. A. C. Smith, Representatives Frank A. Heitkemper and Ralph E. Moody and City Attorney J. M. Long.

Present Membership.

There is a present membership, in good standing, in the Portland lodge of 351. It has always been a flourishing branch, stands in the lead of the Pacific Coast lodges, and is denominated by the grand lodges as the banner lodge west of Chicago. Four of the grand exalted rulers have made the long journey from the East to visit the Portland lodge. They were Dr. Simon Quimby, Edwin E. Hay, Mead D. Detweiler and Judge B. M. Al-



Social Festivities

gether Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile. The motto of the B. P. O. E. is a truly noble one, and here it is:

"The faults of our brothers we write upon the sands; their virtues on the tablets of love and memory."

Elks are devoted to "charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity." These they not only profess, but practice. There is the charity of both heart and hand—the kind that lets not the hand know the doings of the right foot, but "charity that vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up."

The Elks' idea of charity is that which freely admits his shortcomings and acknowledges the merits of others. His "brotherly love" teaches good fellowship. It is of that practical, manly sort that lives up to these sentiments:

True Fellowship.

When you see a man in woe, Walk right up and say "Hello!" Say "Hello!" and "How d'ye do?" And "How's the world a-coming you?" Slip a fellow on his back, Bring your hand down with a whack, Wait right up and don't go slow, Grin and shake and say, "Hello!" Bases is but a cotton roll, Just for wrapping up a soul, And a soul is worth a true Hale and hearty, "How d'ye do?" Don't wait for the crowd to go; Walk right up and say "Hello!"

"The deeds men do live after them," whether of good or ill. All true Elks have the cookies of their hearts suffused with human kindness. Their kindly deeds, resented from Boston to the city by the Golden Gate, from Lake Superior's shores to New Orleans. The refrain comes across far Eastern Androscooggin and ends only where the turbid Sacramento and broad Columbia pour their mighty floods into Pacific's heaving, restless sea.

Often an Elk will joyfully say that the cabalistic letters—B. P. O. E.—stand for "best people on earth." This is not far from being cold, undeniable truth.

History of the Order.

A brief account of how the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks came into being is of interest. The first lodge was instituted in New York City, February 10, 1838, and started out with a membership of 15. The organization bears the proud distinction of being an exclusively American one. It is not improbable that all America will, in time, become the field—one none too large—for the operations of this splendid and vigorous order. In 1874 a lodge was founded at San Francisco, with a membership of about 200. By 1877, 30 lodges were in existence, with a membership of 500. Two years later, there were 229 members and 11 lodges. During 1880 and 1881, although the number of lodges did not increase, the membership did, being 1069 and 1339 for the two years, respectively. From then on until 1891 the growth in lodges and membership was as follows:

In 1882, 14 lodges, with 1594 members; 1883, 20 lodges, with 2400 members; 1884, 26 lodges, with 3051 members; 1885, 35 lodges, with 3949 members; 1886, 55 lodges, with 5511 members; 1887, 66 lodges, with 7334 members; 1888, 90 lodges, with 8732 members; 1889, 114 lodges, with 10,549 members; 1890, 156 lodges, with 13,957 members; 1891, 185 lodges, with 15,472 members.

The membership by 1892 had reached about 30,000, divided among a total of 224 lodges. The present number of lodges is more than 500, and the total present membership exceeds 100,000. It is to be noted that but one lodge can be instituted in any city, and such city must have a bona fide population of 5000.

George W. Thompson, the veteran actor, was the first exalted ruler of the original lodge in New York, and was subsequently made grand exalted ruler. The "father of the order" was Charles Vivian, the English actor.

The "Jolly Corks."

The "Jolly Corks," an association of actors, used to meet nightly after the theaters closed, at an Americanized English chophouse in New York, for social and convivial good-fellowship. It was from this organization that the Order of Elks came. Among the "Jolly Corks," when one or more members were absent, it became a custom to have "the 11 o'clock toast" drunk to the health of those not present. From this came "the 11 o'clock toast" of the Elks. The "Jolly Corks" organized under the

laws of New York State, with such high-sounding titles for lodge officers as "grandissimo primo," "grandissimo secundo," etc. Afterwards, for various reasons, the name of "Jolly Corks" was changed to that of the "Benevolent Protective Order of Elks," which, as has been shown, has grown to great proportions.

Charles Flanders, of Portland, is one of the original "Jolly Corks," and this city has been his home for 30 years or more. He is the man who brought the original Japanese acrobatic troupe from Yokohama to America. This troupe visited Portland in 1872.

Practical Joking.

Elks are continually playing pranks on one another. At an Elk clam bake at Clatsop beach a few years ago, the then exalted ruler of the Portland lodge, was, at the instance of his Astoria brother, Elks, arrested as a forger from Denver. The Deputy Sheriff took the joke in earnest. The Portland man was at dinner with his family, and resisted the officer's overpowered. The Deputy charged him to a tree outside in the sun while he went for a warrant. On his return all was explained, and the prisoner released.

Astoria Elks, on another occasion, when they were entertaining the Portland Elks, arranged with the captain of an English bark to "shanghai" one of the Portlanders. He was to be deported beyond "the heads," and, on the day following, he was to be returned on a tug engaged for the purpose. The joke leaked out, however, in time to prevent its accomplishment.

At Spokane, in 1894, a Washington State Senator narrowly escaped being sent to the Insane Asylum by a number of visiting Seattle Elks. His room in the hotel was entered by three physicians, who examined him and pronounced him non compos mentis. After explanations were made, the victim admitted that his reason came near tottering to its fall during the ordeal.

Two years ago, when the grand lodge was in session at Minneapolis, Minn., the grand secretary, whose home is at Saginaw, Mich., was induced, in the hurry and bustle of so many trains leaving at the same time, to enter the wrong Pullman. He never saw the point of the joke until he was several miles from Minneapolis, westward-bound.

CHARLES E. SAWYER.

B. P. O. E.

B. P. O. E., what a great world of meaning! Contained in these letters, to each one who knows The power of affection, the great depth of feeling, The good to the world, which these trinites disclose, How they shed the sunshine through the invalid's window, They comfort the mother, the sister, and wife, And soften the grief of the widowed and orphaned, Who seemed to have given up more than their life.

B. P. O. E., who is there that's not welcome To join in their sports, at reception or ball, And who has not met a beneficent greeting, As the Sunday night socials within their old hall?

Who are we bent home in the grasp of the morning, Has wood 'round the room in that glittering line, And, cordially grasping the hand of a brother, Has echoed the chorus of dear "Auld Lang Syne?"

B. P. O. E., a bright halo of glory, Surrounds the Elk Antlers, thy escutcheon's claim, And the deeds of thy brothers are echoed in story, From the Pacific slopes to the old state of Maine, Wherever the weary, the poor, or afflicted, Have stretched forth a hand, thou wert ever found near, To assuage the deep grief of the widow and orphan, To soften the heart, and to chasten the tear.

B. P. O. E., all the world must applaud you, And honor the precept that leads in the van, Be upright and noble, no power can withstand you, You represent love to your dear brother man, And when each shall pass o'er the dark blue Argan, And stand on the shores of yon shimmering sea, May the grandest of epitaphs brighten his record, Those hieroglyphics, B. P. O. and E. —William Devere.