

CITY'S GATES ARE OPEN WIDE TO LOYAL ELKS FROM ALL THE LAND

Mayor Rushlight Pays Tribute to Fraternity Now in Annual Convention

IN selecting Portland as the one American city in which to hold its annual reunion, the great Order of Elks has paid another tribute to the well-known hospitality of the people of the Rose City. We may well be proud of this distinction, and grateful to that organization for so honoring us. Portlanders have honestly earned their right to the claim of being a hospitable people. By a mystic combination of climate and sublime scenery; of health, prosperity and all the other elements that make for happiness, our people could not be otherwise than generous and unselfish in dealing with the stranger within our gates. With wide open arms we receive the visiting hosts, and welcome them, not only as visitors to our city, but as brothers; and we rejoice at the coming of so many representatives of an organization that typifies that most excellent of all virtues—Charity. Of all the societies to better mankind this splendid order of men is noted for its charitable acts, for its tolerance and blindness to the faults of others, and for its genuine good-fellowship. As mayor of the city of Portland, then, I join with all its citizens in extending to our visitors a most cordial welcome, and I urge upon all to enter into the spirit of welcome and good-cheer that joy may be unrestrained, and that those who are here may go away knowing something of the hospitality of the people of Portland.

A. G. RUSHLIGHT, Mayor of the City of Portland.

B. P. O. ELKS AND WHAT THE ORDER STANDS FOR

Permanency of This Distinctly American Fraternity Insured by Principles on Which It Is Founded, Declares Grand Chaplain.

Written for The Journal by Rev. John Dysart, grand chaplain of B. P. O. E.



ORGANIZATIONS, like individuals, are more interesting and their real worth better understood when we learn what they really stand for. May we not, therefore, look into the underlying principles of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and see why it commends itself so strongly as it does to the public? why, in this age of fraternal organizations, this order, among the youngest in years, has become the strongest in numbers and one of the most widely known and popularly recognized of them all.

One of the first things which I note as a reason for all this is that this society is distinctly American, and it, therefore, commends itself to a vast body of our citizens who are American first and foremost, and who are most heartily in sympathy with any order which adopts the American flag as its colors and accepts all that that flag stands for, as its expression of political and national life. This order was born on American soil, its landmarks are, not the milestones of the progress of an ancient civilization, nor its legends abstracted from the history of a people whose sun of light and progress as a nation has long ago set, nor have ages of strife and turmoil through which the destiny of the race was slowly being evolved, left traces of becoming ignorance and doubt upon it, neither does it allegiance to any foreign power, but like the sturdy independence, the life and vigor of the republic, it owns and honors as "native land," it has risen to its high position because it is American and because it stands for that which is best and truest in the lives of an intelligent patriotic freeman.

The order of Elks does not arrogate to itself the status of a religious body, nor would it undertake to supply the demands of the religious life of any of its members. Yet in proclaiming as it does its principles, it presents the four great cardinal virtues of all Christian teaching and action. Note them in detail for a little and see how strong a combination of all that can correct and guide us into righteousness of thought and action they present. Charity, justice, brotherly love, fidelity—and as you ponder them you will not wonder that this order, following out these principles so wisely set for it, has gained a stand which marks it as one of the greatest and most beneficent of all fraternal societies of modern times. Nor that from the little handful of actors who organized it as a small club whose membership was limited to a few "intimates" in the profession, it has grown to such vast proportions that today well on to 400,000 men, the flower of the intelligence, the business and professional ability of our land, wear the royal purple of the order and answer to its mystic greetings.

CHARITY—What made there in this world. It seems to glow under a spell divine, warming into action and in-

to life the truest, kindest impulses of our hearts and nature. And yet as we contemplate this word for a little, in all its strength, I would like to correct the general idea which the word conveys to the general mind when it is mentioned.

This word—charity—has undergone a change which has robbed it very much of its original and beautiful meaning. It is not true that charity is synonymous of the expression, "a handout," which in this modern day characterizes so many of our so-called charities.

Twenty centuries ago a strange teacher, full of gentleness, came upon the earth to fulfill a great mission. One day, with his disciples gathered around him, he was unfolding to them the wonderful love of God toward his creation. As he led them, step by step, he said:

"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love and my commandment is that ye love one another as I have loved you."

He spoke to them in that flexible, beautiful tongue, the Greek. He chose as the word for love, "agape," a word which translators in after years saw fit to translate "charity." It is a wonderful word and has in its original meaning, wrought untold influence for good upon this world. He who gave to charity its real and abiding meaning, declared that its mission was to bring new hope and courage into the lives of men and women, to free those who were in bondage through their lack of strength, to minister to the physical needs of the unfortunate, in short, to make the world around them the better. That is the sort of charity this order sets up for its standard.

JUSTICE—If we lacked charity in this world, there could not be justice in it. There is a tendency in our modern life, seen on every hand, to impugn the motives and purposes of really honest honorable men. Their characters are misjudged, by hasty speaking folk, and justice denied them in every turn. In politics, in social life, and also in religion, I regret to say, is this spirit rife. Great injustices are being done each day. The teachings of this order are against this sort of thing. We believe in justice to every man's case, that he be given a chance to vindicate himself, and that he get fair play. Justice grows out of charity and when the latter hath done her work, mankind will not need to be urged to deal justly in all men, but to all men will it be meted out, that which is most justly their due.

BROTHERLY LOVE—Another feature of this order and one of its mainstays. It has been the theme of song and story through the ages. With us I am inclined to think that friendship and brotherly love are more than mere claims; that there does go out feelings warmer and more sincere than we credit them with being. With our order, brotherly love means an interest in a brother's willingness to greet him and assist him in any way one can. It has a practical value.

FIDELITY—The fourth of the ideals held up and supported by the Elks is another outgrowth of charity. With some men, fidelity to anything in life means a solemn pledge to be loyal, or else to be loyal for fear of being considered disloyal. Either of these is a

Founder of Elks' Order and Home of New York Lodge No. 1



Left—Charles A. S. Vivian, actor and entertainer, who organized "The Jolly Corks," a group of actors in New York, November 24, 1867, from which the B. P. O. E. was formed. Right—New home of New York lodge, No. 1, on West Forty-third street, near Broadway.

Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian---In Memoriam

Who makes two blades of grass to grow,
Two blades of grass where grew but one,
Is greater than Napoleon,
Or he who wrought his overthrow,
And chained his chafing soul in thrall;
But he who plucks up wrinkled care,
And plants a smile of pleasure there,
Plants two red roses in the sun,
Where dim and doubtful grew but one,
Is greater, nobler than them all.

I count this sunny, loving boy,
This laughing Vivian who drew
All hearts to his, because he knew
The curse of care, the pay of joy,
The patron saint of chastened pride,
To babe or mother, young or old,
His hands were as hands full of gold,
A smile for all, a tear for all,
He never caused one tear to fall,
Save when he bowed his head and died.
—Joaquin Miller.

NEW ORLEANS SENDS MURPHY AND MOSES

Two well known and representative Elks of the southland are Mr. Walter C. Murphy, past exalted ruler of the New Orleans lodge, and its grand lodge delegate, Phineas Moses, for 16 years secretary of the same lodge. They are both representing the lodge at the convention here.

In commercial life, Mr. Murphy is superintendent of the New Basin canal and Shell road, having under his supervision the construction and maintenance of the shell road leading out to the lake. The sea wall at Lake Pontchartrain is being built under his direction, also.

Mr. Murphy was initiated into the New Orleans lodge of Elks in 1899. He served two years as chairman of the house committee, two terms as exalted ruler of the lodge. Phineas Moses is one of the oldest secretaries in the order of Elks, in point of service. He has been secretary of the New Orleans lodge for 21 years and has been the lodge's representative or alternate at grand lodge reunions since 1896. He has missed only three conventions in 16 years. When not out boosting for the Elks he makes his lodge dues by handling the advertising department of one of the largest department stores in the Crescent City.

HOW PORTLAND SECURED GRAND LODGE REUNION

Idea Conceived at Los Angeles in 1909 and Urged at Detroit in 1910 Brings Results at Atlantic City in 1911.

HOW did Portland get the Elks' convention for 1912? A great deal has been said and published as to how this was accomplished, and at this time it might not be inappropriate to give a brief review of the successive events which led up to its accomplishment. In July, 1909, the grand lodge reunion of the B. P. O. Elks was held in Los Angeles, and many of the members of Portland lodge determined that the convention being held on the Pacific coast, Portland lodge (which has long been noted for its progressive spirit), should be well represented, and in consequence many of its most influential members decided to visit the convention, and for that purpose arranged for a special train. At that time the members of Portland lodge had no intention of making any effort in the early succeeding years to get the grand lodge convention for Portland, but they journeyed to Los Angeles principally for the purpose of being already in the foothills of the mountains when the Elks' convention, the splendid reception which was given to the visitors by the Los Angeles Elks, and the magnitude and importance of the event, and the publicity it gives and the good it does to a community in the middle west, also, over-caused the members of Portland lodge to launch a boom at that time for Portland for 1912. This was before Portland lodge had officially determined that it wanted the convention, and the excitement, without express authority from the lodge.

It has been customary every third year to hold the convention somewhere west of the Mississippi river, or in the south; also, every third year, somewhere in the middle west; also, every third year, somewhere along the Atlantic seaboard. At Los Angeles, it was determined to hold the next convention at Detroit, and following the precedent as already stated, it was naturally expected that the 1911 convention would be held somewhere on or near the Atlantic seaboard, and that the 1912 convention would go somewhere to the south or west of the Mississippi river. After the last session of the Los Angeles convention had passed away, many of the enthusiasts who had visited Los Angeles commenced agitating official action by Portland lodge, looking towards securing the 1912 convention for Portland. Those who favored going after the convention insisted that Portland was no longer an over-grown town, but a metropolitan city and that no convention, whatever its magnitude, was too great to be handled by its loyal citizens. The discussion created great enthusiasm and it was voted almost unanimously to go after the 1912 convention in earnest—to land it, and to make it a great success.

Delegation Goes to Detroit. From the time this vote was taken, every member of Portland lodge has been enthusiastically supporting the move. As the time for the 1910 convention at Detroit approached arrangements were again made for another special train to carry the Portland Elks to Detroit, there to boost for Portland for 1912. Approximately 100 members of Portland lodge, together with about 50 members of neighboring lodges, many of the Elks accompanied by their wives and other members of their families, journeyed to Detroit, and all of the members of the party are still singing their praises about the splendid trip

which they then enjoyed. Ray W. Aperson was then the exalted ruler of the lodge, and Gus C. Moser was the official delegate of Portland lodge to the grand lodge convention. At Detroit, headquarters were opened in the Pontchartrain hotel, and Portland lodge kept open house during all the days of that convention, and a large majority of the approximately 2000 official delegates to the Detroit convention, and probably 15,000 other Elks, visited Portland headquarters during that week.

Speech Clinches Claim. On the day fixed by the convention in Detroit for the election of officers, and the selection of the place of meeting for 1912, a motion was about to be passed to make the selection unanimous, the representative of Portland lodge appeared upon the rostrum and launched forth an address which apparently had in view the nomination of Portland for 1912, instead of waiting for 1912. Mr. Moser pictured the beauties of Portland, its wonderful landscapes and surrounding scenery, its mountains, its rivers, its charming climatic conditions, and the hospitality of its people, in such glowing terms and amid such enthusiasm, that it was for a time thought the convention would be stampeded, and that Portland would be selected for 1912 instead of Atlantic City. However, at the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Moser, observing the excitement among the members from Atlantic City, and the enthusiasm of the delegates, relieved the situation by advising the convention that he was not in fact seeking to nominate Portland for 1912, but merely mentioning Portland for 1912, and that he had arisen to second the nomination of Atlantic City.

At Atlantic City. However, the members of Portland lodge do not believe in doing things by halves, and were determined to make the convention a certainty for 1912; so in July, 1911, again about 150 loyal and enthusiastic boosters for Portland journeyed to Atlantic City in another special train, and there again established magnificent headquarters and kept open house, and extended hospitality to all visiting Elks. In fact, it was repeatedly stated by the visitors at Atlantic City that Portland lodge had done more towards entertaining the visiting Elks than even Atlantic City lodge itself. The famous song, "Portland Wants You in Nineteen Twelve," became the popular song at Atlantic City, and was sung not only by the visitors from Portland, but by many other visiting Elks. Gus C. Moser, district deputy grand exalted ruler, and officially delegate of Portland lodge to make the nominating speech at Atlantic City, was again on hand, and after delivering another enthusiastic address on behalf of Portland, the convention, amid great enthusiasm, and by unanimous vote, selected Portland for 1912.

Some of the Past Exalted Rulers Who Have Faithfully Served the Portland Lodge Since Its Establishment



—Photographs by Moore.