

'T WAS A GALA DAY

THE ODD FELLOWS' CELEBRATION.

How the Seventy Sixth Anniversary was Observed in Virginia—Visitors from Everywhere—The Programme as started out—The Lodge Meeting and Parade—The Exercises at the Court House—Addresses by W. A. Clark and Wm. Morris—The Banquet Now in Progress—The Ball This Evening.

Seventy six years ago to-day Thomas Wildey, an Englishman, who had located in Baltimore and was lonely because Englishmen were not popular then on account of the recent war, proposed to John Welch, John Duncan, John Cheatham and Richard Rushforth that they relieve the monotony of life by organizing an Odd Fellows' lodge resembling the one he had belonged to in England. On April 26, 1818, these five men met at the Seven Stars tavern and instituted the first



THOMAS WILDEY.

lodge, which they called Washington lodge, No. 1. The five men were not well educated or particularly refined, and they had little influence in Baltimore, but Wildey was a born leader of men, and before he died, in 1861, the order he had founded had a membership of 200,000.

In his great work he had the able assistance of James L. Ridgely, a native American who was educated and refined and a lawyer of high standing. He excelled as an organizer and was very instrumental in making the order the great organization that it is.

Thomas Wildey was born in London in 1781 and became a wagon maker's apprentice at the age of 14. While still bound to his employer he became an Odd Fellow, and with a few associates instituted a lodge in a remote part of London. The order was started in England over a century and a half ago much the same as Wildey started the American order. A number of congenial spirits got together at a Saturday night, swapped stories and had a good time. From this beginning came Manchester Unity, the English Order of Odd Fellows and the prototype of the American order. The Rebekah degree for women was instituted in 1850 and was the creation of Schuyler Colfax, afterward vice president of the United States.

The present officers of the sovereign grand lodge of Odd Fellows in America are the following: J. B. Stebbins of Albion, N. Y., grand sire; Fred Carleton of Texas, deputy grand sire; T. A. Ross of Baltimore, grand secretary, and Isaac Shepard of Philadelphia, grand treasurer.

A HISTORY OF VIRGINIA LODGE.

Virginia Lodge No. 7, was organized in 1875, its charter bearing date July 19. The charter members were Ferdinand Bohm, F. E. W. Patten, W. H. Rodgers, Geo. B. Howe and J. M. Herndon. After a somewhat checkered career, the lodge, in 1881, surrendered its charter to the Grand Lodge of Montana, from 1881 to 1892 no organization of Odd Fellows existed in Virginia City, but in 1892 a few of the old members in connection with members of other lodges, petitioned the Grand Lodge for a return of the charter. The petition was granted and on Sept. 7, 1892, Grand Master Philip Dodson, aided by members of Samaritan Lodge No. 10, and the old members of Virginia Lodge, effected a reorganization. Since that date the lodge has steadily increased in membership and its usefulness has grown in like measure. Of the early members, J. M. Herndon, R. O. Hickman, Andrew W. Switzer, J. H. Vanderbeck and Herman Lange, constitute the "old guard." Of those whose membership is now with the "Grand Lodge on the other side" we

recall the names of C. B. Hauser, W. H. Rodgers, J. B. Percy, P. D. Hayward, T. T. Jones, H. H. Hathaway, John McRoberts, H. R. Harbaugh, A. C. Hall, Ambrose B. Kiser and Charles Woodward. It is asserted by members of the order that no mystery surrounds Odd Fellowship. In the details of its work, in its initiations and methods of recognition, only, is it a secret organization. Its principles and its objects are publicly proclaimed on all proper occasions. Its purpose is to help humanity, to lessen the burdens and to relieve the distress of those who surround us, and to accomplish in this respect by united action, that which the individual is unable to do. Morality, temperance, good citizenship, fidelity to duty, purity of thought and purity of language, each is given due attention, but while recognizing the fraternity of man, Odd Fellowship is by no means a reform school and seeks growth only from the best elements of society. If Virginia Lodge No. 7, in its work and its membership, as it appears to one not a member of the order is a fair representative of Odd Fellowship at large, then we are sure that our readers will all agree with us in saying "all honor to the order."

THE PARADE.

As per programme published in last week's MADISONIAN, the lodge met in formal session at 1:30 this afternoon. This was a part of the celebration to which reporters were not admitted. At 3 o'clock, the lodge room was thrown open and the members left the hall in a body, and on reaching the street, the marshal of the day, J. H. Vanderbeck, formed the procession, the head of the column resting on Wallace street, directly in front of Odd Fellows' hall. The formation was as follows:

"Old Glory."
Virginia City cornet band.
Banners of different lodges.
Degree members.
Lodge officers.

On arriving at the court house, the ranks were opened and a counter march executed, bringing the officers to the head.

THE PUBLIC EXERCISES.

The audience chamber at the court house was jammed at 3 o'clock this afternoon, even before the parade had disbanded. The room had previously been beautifully decorated for the occasion. The space inside the hall was reserved for members of the order. As the Odd Fellows filed in, the band which had previously taken the place assigned to it, rendered an appropriate selection. At 3:20 Wm. Morris, president of the day called the meeting to order and after prayer by Chaplain Herndon, the ritualistic exercises began. Following the responsive readings by President Morris and Barclay Jones, the proclamation of the sovereign grand sire of the sovereign grand lodge, directing the proper observance of the day was read. After more music and a prayer by the chaplain, the

ADDRESS OF Wm. MORRIS.

president of the day followed. Mr. Morris, in opening, said:
"Ladies, gentlemen and visiting brethren: We have met to-day to celebrate the seventy-sixth anniversary of our beloved order, and in behalf of Virginia lodge, No. 7, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, I take pleasure in welcoming you here today. I welcome you in the name of an order the principles of which are founded in friendship, love and truth. I welcome you in the name of an order that does not tolerate sectarian or political creeds; an order the tenets and workings of which are in keeping with the constitution and laws of this grand old republic of ours; I welcome you in the name of an order, the principles and teachings of which are in harmony with the laws of nature and of nature's God, the laws of God; I welcome you in the name of a people of many nationalities, o'er whose homes throughout Europe, Asia and America floats the flag of at least fifteen nations; a people whose chane of lodges almost encircle the civilized world, all united and recognizing every nation, kindred and tongue where our beloved order exists, by an unspoken and unwritten language, guarded with prudence, zeal and integrity, a people especially devoted to the central link, in the chime of their beautiful emblem, mutual assistance who daily dispenses charity without ostentation, lift the veil of sorrow from the troubled brow, bring joy and gladness to the saddened heart; restore the roses to the faded cheek, and whose acts and sympathies for humanity, are as deep as the unfathomable ocean and as broad as this big round world of ours. To be an Odd Fellow in spirit and in truth, is to be

a man of generous impulses, a true friend and a good citizen. My friends, we are glad you are with us today; we trust you will throw aside all reserve, fling cares to the winds for the time being and join in with us in having a good time. Again, I extend to you a most cordial welcome."

At the conclusion of Mr. Morris' very happy and appropriate talk, the band rendered a selection, followed by

W. A. CLARK'S ADDRESS.

Will A. Clark as the orator of the day, delivered an address on "Odd Fellowship," giving some of the mythical as well as the actual history of the foundation of the order, calling attention to the similarity of its principles and practices to those of various societies existing in the time of the Roman Empire and the middle ages, and the history of the rise of the order in England about 1745, and its career in the United States, where its growth has been more rapid. Mr. C. also gave a short description and explanation of the charitable and benevolent features of the order, its government, principles, aims and resources, the necessary qualifications for membership and the ultimate object for which the modern institution exists. Added to this was a comment in explanation of the allegorical sense in which the three words "friendship, love and truth" which constitute the motto of the order were used in connection with the work of the institution and in explanation of the objects, purposes and extent, and secret work of the order. Mr. Clark's talk was brief but very interesting and was listened to with marked attention.

Mr. Clark's remarks put the vast audience in the proper form of mind to hasten to "Our Flag" as rendered by the choir, a stirring song. The benediction was then pronounced, the procession reformed and marched to Odd Fellows hall, where the lodge was formally closed.

A BANNER PRESENTATION.

One of the pleasantest features of the day was a surprise which was sprung in the presentation of a magnificent silk banner by Mrs. Anna P. Hall in memory of her deceased husband, Amos C. Hall, who at the time of his death, was treasurer of the Virginia lodge. The banner was made from original designs by a celebrated flag artist of Philadelphia. The presentation address was made by A. J. Bennett on behalf of Mrs. Hall. Mr. Bennett called the attention of the lodge to the sorrowful circumstances attending the demise of Mr. Hall and to the further fact that Mrs. Hall had constantly held the kindness and brotherly care of the members of Virginia lodge to her and her family in the hour of bereavement, in memory; in testimony whereof, the banner being presented.

S. R. Buford, feelingly, responded on behalf of the lodge. He reviewed his thirty years acquaintance with Mr. Hall and in eloquent terms paid tribute to his worth as a man and an Odd Fellow. Moving in conclusion that the thanks of the lodge be tendered Mrs. Hall and an engrossed copy of the same under the seal of the lodge be sent to her.

The entire matter was a genuine surprise to all except a few members and the enthusiasm of the lodge was unbounded.

The front of the banner is of white silk with a curtain of pink, blue and scarlet silk, the back of scarlet silk, the whole being bordered with rich gold fringe. The central figure on the banner front represents the rising sun with the sword and scales, all emblems of the order, and bearing the inscription "Virginia Lodge, No. 7, I. O. O. F., Virginia City, Montana." The reverse inscription is "Presented to Virginia Lodge, No. 7, in memory of Amos C. Hall."

THE BANQUET.

The banquet began at 5:30 and was an elaborate affair, the whole being under the supervision of that well

known caterer, C. E. Reese, who, as a member of the Virginia lodge, volunteers his services. Covers were laid 200 guests. The country far and wide has been searched for delicacies to grace the table. California was laid under tribute for fruits and spring vegetables, while Madison county contributed the turkeys and chickens. One of the features which marks all Odd Fellows banquets was the absence of intoxicants, their places being filled by fragrant coffee and choice teas. The place was profusely decorated with floral emblems and cut flower designs, the contribution of Virginia City ladies. Another feature was the fact that the visiting brethren were given the places of honor. The banquet terminated at about 8:30.

As the MADISONIAN went to press the banquet tables were being filled, and the assembly of hungry Odd Fellows is a merry one. The old and young are there, and there is much rejoicing and good fellowship.

THE BALL AND RECEPTION.

The annual ball and reception will be held this (Friday) evening. The ball will be held at Armory hall and the reception at Odd Fellows hall. A ticket to the ball also entitles the holder to admission to the reception. The floor directors will be Adam Feuling, Wm. Finney, Chas. Kyle, Ed Gohn, Martin Smith and Frank Conway. It will undoubtedly be very generally attended. A committee of Odd Fellows will attend to the entertainment of

those attending the reception. This will conclude to-day's festivities and the day will go down on record as one of the most pleasant and enjoyable in Virginia City's history.

Garden seeds of all sorts and conditions at C. W. Rank & Co's. 23-3

MEADOW CREEK.

Social News and Gossip of the Past seven Days.

MEADOW CREEK, April 23.—[Special Correspondence.]—W. J. Oliver was a recent visitor.

W. A. Fletcher suffered a paralytic stroke affecting his right side, last Thursday, but he is rapidly recovering.

John Ormiston and Fred Gibson took in Pony last Saturday.

Samuel Fletcher is home from the Montana University, called here by his father's sudden illness.

S. A. Buell is preparing to remove to the Michener place.

A very pleasant dance came off at the hall Friday night.

Mrs. Geo. F. Cope of Helena, and Mrs. Fort of Harrison, are visiting their mother, Mrs. P. H. James.

Several families from the east have come into the valley this spring.

Dr. Southmayd was in the valley the first of the week.

Miss Naomi Cook will leave soon for her home in Bozeman.

Clothes neatly pressed and cleaned at R. O. Hickman's.

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ELIEL BROS., Dillon, Mont.

ANNIVERSARY BALL

On April 26 a Grand Anniversary Ball will be given at Armory Hall under the auspices of Virginia Lodge No. 7, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. A reception will be held at Odd Fellows hall, where a committee will be in charge to entertain those who do not care to dance. Tickets including supper, admitting gentlemen and lady to both Ball and Reception, \$2.50. The public is cordially invited to attend.

FLOOR MANAGERS:

Adam Feuling, Wm. Finney, Chas. Kyle, Martin Smith, and Frank Conway.

MILITARY BALL

AT ARMORY HALL

MAY 6th, 1895.

On the above date, Company D, National Guard of Montana will celebrate the 8th anniversary of its organization, at Armory Hall, with a

◀ BENEFIT * BALL ▶

A cordial invitation is extended. Members of the company are to appear in Full Dress Uniform. Proceeds to go to John Robbins who had both legs broken in a cave at the Pacific mine.

FLOOR MANAGERS:

Lieutenant E. J. Gainan, Sergeant Louis Romoy, Private James McClurg, Private Thos. Strong, Private L. G. Kellogg.

SUPPER WILL BE SERVED AT THE MADISON

.....Tickets, (including supper) \$2.50.....

MUSIC BY SEARLE'S ORCHESTRA.

He Was a Wise Man

who said: Leave nothing to what is called "luck" and you will be what is called "lucky."

In other words, don't take chances.

For instance, when you go east, see that your ticket reads via the best line to the east—the Burlington.

Omaha, Kansas City, St. Joseph, St. Louis, Chicago—they're all on the Burlington—they're all quickly, comfortably, safely reached by it. Our folder gives full information. Get a copy from the nearest ticket agent or write to

W. W. Johnston, Com. Agt. BILLINGS, MONT.