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FIFTY YEARS AGO.

SEMI CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF VAN CAMP LODGE OF ODD FELLOWS.

Fifty years ago last Tuesday night Van Camp Lodge No. 147 I. O. of O. F. was established in this place and the members decided to celebrate the event by ceremonies appropriate to the occasion. Invitations were extended to the surrounding lodges, and when the lodge was called to order the hall was filled not only with the members of this lodge, but delegations from eight adjoining lodges were present. The evening was spent in speech making, and conversation having a reminiscent turn.

C. F. Knapp gave a history, and the significance of the emblems, which he traced through Jewish traditions and to the time of Moses. As one of the principles of the order is to entertain the stranger who enters your gate, arrangements had been made with C. B. Chrisman to furnish the refreshments, which he did in such a way that no one went home hungry. A paper was prepared and read by Prof. Mauser giving the history of the lodge for the past fifty years, and as it is very interesting to many of our readers we publish the same.

THE WORK OF FIFTY YEARS.

Individuals and associations are known by their fruits. No one can divine what is in the heart of man, whether its intents are good or evil but when men's acts are scrutinized often even the innermost recesses of the heart are laid bare and it is not difficult to determine whether the actuating motives have been such as spring from a sense of right, of justice, in short from universal love, or if the ruling principles have been selfishness and greed.

This is equally true of human associations. It is often difficult or impossible to determine if the influence of the relations which men assume with their fellow men will be good or evil, but when once the results of such associations are known, we may form an accurate judgment of their influence and freely determine whether they merit our commendation and support or our condemnation.

It is eminently fitting that we consider the fruits of this tree which we denominate Van Camp Lodge No. 147; not for the purpose of passing judgment upon the merits of our order, it has long since had the approval of all fair minded men and we have all already shown our appreciation of its merits, and love for its principles but that we may realize more fully the support we owe it.

Permit me first very briefly to notice the growth of this tree. It was instituted Jan. 14, 1846 just fifty years ago to night, with seven charter members, most or all of them coming from Concordia Lodge of Catawissa. Of these original seven, two were afterwards suspended, three withdrew and two died members of the lodge. But one of these seven is now living, Geo. W. Abbott, who has reached a ripe old age and has been totally blind for a number of years.

The first report of the membership of the lodge that I have been able to find is for the term ending with Sept. 30, 1855, over nine years after the lodge was instituted, when 75 members were reported. Taking the reports at the ends of periods of about five years each I find that on April 6, 1861, 68 members were reported, Oct. 14, '65—72, Sept. 30, '70—101, Sept. 30, '75—121; Sept. 30, '80—85; Sept. 30, '85—64; Sept. 30, '90—67 and Sept. 30, '95—59. The highest point that the lodge has reached in membership being 121—reported for the term ending Sept. 30, 1875.

The Lodge has had in all 332 members of which 24 were admitted on card and 208 by initiation. 55 of its members have died, 151 been suspended, 23 reinstated, 7 suspended the second time, 73 have withdrawn and 3 have been expelled.

I have been able to find the ages of 234 of the 332 members that the lodge has had or about 70 per cent. Excepting where I state otherwise I have taken these 234 members as the basis in this report. I find that the Lodge has had 145 members under 30 years of age; 150 between 30 and 40; 87 between 40 and 50; 45 between 50 and 60 and 25 over 60.

Of the whole number of members 332 that the lodge has had, 151 have been paid benefits. Of these 11 have been paid or have had paid to their families, funeral benefits only. 106 of the 234 members whose ages could be ascertained have received \$10,811.77. Of this amount \$935 was paid to members under 30 years of age or 9 per cent.; \$2512, or 23 per cent. to members between the ages of 30 and 40; \$721.05 or 25 per cent. to

members between the ages of 40 and 50; \$1868 or 17 per cent. to members between the ages of 50 and 60; and \$3251 or 30 per cent. to members over 60 years of age.

Of these 106 members, 34 drew benefits before reaching the age of 30; 59 when between the ages of 30 and 40; 40 when between 40 and 50 years old; 24 when between 50 and 60 years old and 21 when over 60.

I find that each member the lodge has had under 30 has been paid an average of \$6.38. Those between 30 and 40 an average of \$17.32; between 40 and 50—\$31.28; between 50 and 60—\$41.51 and those over 60 have received an average of \$130.04.

The largest amount paid to any one member of the 151 that have received benefits is \$1084. 7 of these 151 have been paid over \$500 each and 8 over \$300 each.

34 members who drew \$966 benefits were suspended; 12 who drew \$365, withdrew, 2 who received \$41 were expelled; 34 who drew \$4348 weekly benefits and \$2881.27 funeral benefits or a total of \$7229.27 have died, and 17 who have drawn \$2210.50 are still living and members.

The largest amount paid in benefits during any one term was for the 6 mos. ending Sept. 30, 1893. During this term 11 brothers were relieved, \$693 paid in weekly benefits for 282 weeks sickness and \$225 funeral benefits or a total of \$918 and this when the membership was only 62.

The lodge has paid in all in weekly benefits \$12530.04. In funeral benefits for brothers and their wives \$5581.27. It has paid in funeral and weekly benefits \$17111.31 or almost enough to give every man, woman and child reported in Bloomsburg by the last census \$4. It has paid in charity for various purposes \$1605.16. The living expenses of the lodge for the 50 years has been \$3959.44 and the Lodge has paid out in all for all purposes \$23,675.91 or enough to give every man woman and child in Columbia Co. a half a dollar and have \$5259 left.

The lodge has had 82 past grands of which 41, or just half died members, 13 were suspended, 5 withdrew and 20 are still living and members.

The lodge has now 14 members under 30; 13 between 30 and 40; 10 between 40 and 50; 6 between 50 and 60 and 11 over 60. The oldest member is Bro. Judah Boone, the next oldest Bro. Knapp who is as he says 23 from his waist up and 73 from his waist down.

This brother is our statistical history. Of that greater history, the deeds of kindness that have been wrought, the care of the sick, the donations to widows and orphans we have little record. It is written on the hearts of men. It is a grand old tree that I have been considering, that has brought most welcome fruit to many a brother in need, and is capable of sheltering us when overtaken by the storms of sickness and distress. We owe it our earnest support and most zealous guardianship.

The Grim Destroyer.

We are again called upon to chronicle a sudden death, and this time Miss Bertha Reecer is the victim. She was a daughter of Reuben Reecer, who died when she was a babe. She lived with her mother until she was six years of age, at which time death robbed her of her mother, and she went to Catawissa and made her home with her aunt, with whom she remained until about two years ago, when she came to this place, and resided with her brother James, at whose residence she died. She was employed at the silk mill, and Tuesday evening of last week she returned from work, complaining of being sick. She went to her room and never recovered, dying last Tuesday evening at 5:30, after an illness of just one week, aged 18 years, 6 months and 4 days. The cause of her death was typhoid pneumonia and inflammation of the bowels. Bertha was a bright, beautiful girl, and by her winning manners had a large circle of friends, who are deeply affected by her sudden death. The funeral services were held from the home of James Reecer on Eight street, this Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Samuel Wigfall has placed Welsbach lights in the Commissioners', Prothonotary's, Register and Recorder, Treasurer and Sheriff's office, and in the Judge's library. They give a clear steady light and are an improvement over the old method.

It is believed that nearly 50,000 cars and 600 engines will be built by the different railroads in the country during the next six months.

A SERIOUS FALL.

DANIEL PIFER AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CARPET MILL FALLS DOWN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT AND BREAKS HIS LEG.

Last night just as the whistle had announced that the time to quit work had arrived, Daniel Pifer who was on the second floor of the Carpet Mill fell down the elevator shaft to the basement. Drs. Bruner and Bierman were immediately summoned and the unfortunate man was tenderly picked up and carried to his home and upon an examination by the doctors it was found that his right leg was broken near the hip. The fracture was reduced and the patient placed into as comfortable position as possible. Just how the accident occurred it is impossible to ascertain as there are nearly as many versions of it, as people who were present. In all probability the true story will not be known until Mr. Pifer is able to tell it. One story is, that when the whistle blew, the electric light was extinguished and he walked into the shaft instead of a door. Another story is that he fell into it while tussling with a companion. It seems strange how the accident could have occurred as there is always a guard around the shaft when the elevator is not in position. It could not have been in position last night when this accident occurred. It was reported on the streets that he had been killed, but the doctors think that with proper care there are no doubts of his recovery. In addition to the broken leg his face was badly cut, but no internal injury was sustained.

BURNED TO DEATH.

William Scott a Young Man of Montour Township Overcome by Gas at a Lime Kiln and Horribly Burned.

Last Sunday morning about eleven o'clock as Harry Evans and Frank Mensch were going through a field in Montour township in which the lime kilns of John S. Mensch are located they discovered the lifeless body of a man in the kiln. They immediately notified William Mensch, a Justice of the Peace for said township, who empaneled a Jury and held an inquest. The Jury heard the evidence and found that he had come to death accidentally by being overcome with the gas from the kiln. He was apparently about twenty five years of age, was five feet, seven inches tall and weighed about one hundred and fifty pounds. He had light hair, short mustache, wore a dark blue suit, gray overcoat all of which were in good condition. Subsequent investigation proved that it was William Scott, a young man whom Henry Wertman of said township had raised, taking him from a poor house when he was but a lad. He was of a roving disposition and had at times worked at the Danville asylum. Last Friday he left Mr. Wertman to make a visit to friends in Roaringcreek, and it is supposed that he was on his way home and passing the lime kilns, he had gone there to get warm. He had evidently seated himself with his back to the fire, as when found he was lying on his back in the flames. His body from his breast down to below his knees was burned almost into a crisp, the feet were not burned much as they were outside the fire. The body was placed in charge of undertaker G. G. Baker who brought it to Bloomsburg and prepared it for burial.

An examination of his clothing which he had left at the house of a friend in Fernville revealed a life insurance in the Prudential insurance company, but subsequent investigation showed that it had lapsed for want of non payment of premium. The body was taken to Grovania Tuesday afternoon for interment.

H. G. Housel, who has made application for a position on the police force of Washington, D. C., went to that place Monday morning to take his final physical examination. He secured the position through the influence of Al. Hunt a member of the force. We hope he will be successful in his examination, as he would make an efficient officer.

The stockholders of the Bloomsburg & Sullivan Railroad Company met on Tuesday and elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President C. R. Buckalew; Directors, Morton McMichael, E. W. Clark Jr., J. H. Kershaw, Samuel Wigfall, Charles Evans, L. E. Waller, J. K. Grotz and H. J. Conner. Six thousand eight hundred and thirty four shares out of twelve thousand were voted.

A Court's decision at Allentown is that social clubs may sell liquor.

THE LICENSE AGITATION.

A warm contest is going on in this town over the applications for liquor license to be heard next Monday.

On last Monday the names of all applicants in Bloomsburg, with the names of their bondsmen, attorneys, petitioners, and owners of the properties, were published in the Daily, the article being marked as an advertisement, and said to have been paid for by somebody. This publication has aroused a bitter feeling among those whose names appear, and the matter has been the chief topic of discussion during the week. Among the list are many of the most prominent citizens of Bloomsburg, and they look upon the publication as an effort to injure them in their business, and to cast reflection upon their personal characters, and to prevent them from signing petitions next year, by intimidation. Whether the method being pursued is a judicious one, can be told only by results in the future. The temperance cause is undoubtedly a good one, but it seems to us that men can be more easily induced to lend their moral support by being led to it, rather than driven to it by fear of having their names published, or by any other species of intimidation.

Whether licensed houses are to be recognized and permitted to exist, is not the question at issue. The law recognizes them and regulates the manner in which they shall be licensed and conducted. The courts must administer the law as it is found on the statute books. The responsibility of determining whether there is a necessity for any more licensed houses in Bloomsburg, or in the county, is with them. The duty of informing the court upon the question is with the citizens, and those who favor more licenses have the right to sign petitions to that effect, while those who think otherwise are at perfect liberty to file remonstrances; and both have the privilege of going upon the witness stand in open court to testify in these matters.

Over and over again spasmodic efforts have been made in a general way to prevent the granting of licenses. Over and over again, general remonstrances have been filed against the granting of some particular license, or against the granting of any licenses. Over and over again the law has been laid down by the court, applicable to such cases, and has been printed in the newspapers; and yet the movement revives semi-occasionally along the same old lines that have failed repeatedly heretofore, all efforts being directed toward the prevention of licenses, rather than towards the enforcement of the law as it stands. If there were proper organization, and a fund to draw upon, and well directed management, looking toward the punishment of violation of the liquor law, much more good could be accomplished than by trying to stop the sale of cigars and newspapers and soda water on Sunday. A spasm of reform once a year is not sufficient. Vigilance all the year round is what is needed, and if reports be true, that there are in this town, gambling holes, bars that sell liquor on Sunday, and to minors, and to intoxicated persons, and to habitual drunkards, the court will, no doubt, revoke any license where such violators can be shown. If policemen and constables make no returns of violations of law, elect others who can see what is going on under their very noses, and who have the courage to tell it. Reform is needed in many departments in Bloomsburg, and it will come the sooner if the co-operation of our leading business men can be secured, a result that cannot be hoped for, if they are to be held up to public contempt by having their names published for doing what they have a legal right to do.

The Normal School Lecture Course is giving the people of Bloomsburg an opportunity of hearing the very best talent it is possible to secure. The next two numbers are unusually fine. This Thursday evening, Leland T. Powers, the celebrated impersonator, will appear in "Lord Chumley," and on Tuesday evening, January 21, the Mozart Symphony Club of New York will appear. This company enjoys a world-wide reputation and is under the direction of Messrs M. Blodeck and Rich Stoelzer.

Rev. G. E. Weeks, Pastor of the Baptist church, has tendered his resignation to take effect in three months. Mr. Weeks has been in this place four years and has made many friends, who are sorry to see him leave. During his pastorate the church has improved along all lines, and over seventy have been added to the membership.

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LUTHERAN CHURCH DEDICATION.

For some time the Lutherans at Espy have been engaged in building a new church, and last Sunday it was formally dedicated. Rev. J. H. Weber, D. D. of Sunbury preached the sermon in the morning. As he is considered a good financier, the matter of raising the needed funds was placed in his hands, and he proved himself equal to the emergency. The treasurer stated that the amount necessary to be raised was \$1458. This amount did not include the carpet, heater, chandelier, pulpit, furniture, windows, bell and spouting, these things having been provided for by the Ladies' Aid Society, and Young People's Lutheran Alliance. This seemed like a large amount to be raised from a congregation the membership of which was composed principally of people of limited means, but they had erected their edifice, and intended paying for it. The offering at the morning service amounted to \$1300. The Session of the Sunday School in the afternoon, and the Young People's Alliance meeting at 6 o'clock P. M. led by Miss Belle Ruckle, were interesting and addresses were made by several of the visitors. The dedicatory sermon was preached in the evening, by Rev. J. R. Dimm, D. D. President of the Susquehanna University at Selinsgrove. The collection was resumed by Dr. Weber, and to the astonishment of all present the total amount pledged during the day aggregated \$1600.00. The church building was then dedicated to the Worship of God, according to the solemn and beautiful service of the Lutheran Church. The entire cost of the building was over \$3500 and the membership can boast of owning one of the neatest churches in the County.

An article has been going the rounds of the newspapers which stated that Miss Agnes Fortune of this place had received by the will of a Mr. D'Arcourt the sum of \$10,000. That the said amount had been left her for saving the life of the testator at Coney Island about two years ago. Upon being shown the article by a representative of the COLUMBIAN, Miss Fortune stated that she never knew Mr. D'Arcourt, didn't know he was dead, never saved his life, nor received the \$10,000. In other respects the story might be true.

ENTERTAINING, INSTRUCTIVE, PATRIOTIC.

As previously announced in the columns of this paper on the first Thursday night of each month Washington Camp No. 319 P. O. S. of A. is entertained by an address by one of the members. Last Thursday night it was delivered by Hon. E. R. Ikeler and will be long remembered by those present. It was not only entertaining, but patriotic and instructive and several of the important questions of the times were ably discussed. It would have been the best educator in the world, if it could have been open to the general public. The next address will be delivered by Hon. A. L. Fritz on the evening of the sixth of February.

A PLEASANT RE UNION.

Last Saturday Mrs. Sarah, wife of John G. Quick deceased, was seventy years of age, and her brothers determined to give her a surprise and have a family re union at the same time, consequently L. N. Moyer and family, John L. Moyer and family, Charles Moyer and family, Albert Moyer and family, and W. S. Moyer and family accompanied by John Q. Barkley and Miss Lizzie Barkley repaired to the homestead of Mrs. Quick near Rupert. Mrs. William Mensch, a daughter of Mrs. Quick, had been left into the secret. When Moyer Brothers undertake to do anything, it is always done in a successful manner and this birthday party was no exception to the rule. Mrs. Quick was completely surprised and the time from their arrival until dinner was announced was spent in pleasant conversation. And such a dinner! It was gotten up in a manner known only to the wives of the Moyer brothers and heartily enjoyed by all. The affair passed only too quickly, and time for bidding good night was so close that they were readied to stop in a busy life, and spend a pleasant pleasure.

The home of the Restorator of the West Street was brightened by the presence of a daughter last Saturday. The daughter, Tamara, of the Restorator, was with clear, solid ice thickness.