



Oddfellows Fete 1914

The Wardour Lodge of Oddfellows held a fete on Wednesday in the Vicarage Field, kindly lent by Mr. R. Wastfield. In the morning the members paraded the streets and attended service at the Parish Church. The Rev. C. A. Hutchinson read the prayers, and an excellent address was given by the Rev. G. Williams, rector of Chilmark. Dinner was served in a large marquee (lent by Mr. Hugh Morrison) in the fete field. Mr. W. R. Shaw-Stewart presided over a company numbering about 165, including the Grand Master of the Salisbury district (Bro. A. J. Cuff, Fovant), the deputy Grand Master (Bro. A. E. Doughty, Whaddon), the Rev. C. A. Hutchinson, the Rev. G. Williams, Mr. E. E. Hibberd, Mr. J. White, Mr. G. A. Bull, Mr. Walsh, Bros. H. J. Penny (secretary to the Wardour Lodge), W. Cuff (treasurer), H. Targett, GM, S. Langdon, George Ponton, Jnr., F. Woods, and the following representatives of Court "Wardour Castle" of the Ancient Order of Foresters - Messrs. R. Lush (secretary), W. W. Kendall (treasurer), G. E. Lush, R. F. Harrison, E. Barber, A. Moxham, C. Lever, H. Mouny, &c.

The loyal toasts were very heartily drunk, on the proposition of the Chairman.

Mr. J. White gave "The Bishop, and Clergy and Ministers of Religion," to which the Vicar responded.

In submitting "The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows and the Wardour Lodge," Mr. Shaw-Stewart spoke of the excellent work of the friendly societies on a voluntary basis, and said he thought that many years would elapse before their old principles were engulfed by the compulsory State insurance.

In responding, the District Grand Master gave some interesting figures respecting the recent growth of the Manchester Unity, and aid the sick pay during the last year had been £25,000 less than their actuaries had led them to expect. This was very satisfactory. The Salisbury district had a gain in membership of 706 on the last twelve months, and its funds had increased by £7,000. The Wardour Lodge, which was the third largest in the district, had a membership of 373 adults in the voluntary section (with 218 State Insurance members). In 1913 the Lodge paid out an average of £9 16s. per week to sick members, the total claims amounting to £356 13s. 6d. on the voluntary side, and £144 0s. 8d. on the State section. The benefit funds, however, had reached £5,555, an increase of £130 9s. 5d on the year's working.

The Deputy Grand Master and the Lodge Secretary also responded.

"The health of the Chairman" was cordially drunk on the proposition of Mr. G. E. Lush; Bro. Targett gave "The Visitors", for whom Mr. Walsh replied; and the toast-list concluded with "The Host", submitted by Mr. R. Lush, and acknowledged by Mr. J. W. Harrison.

In the field skittle matches, sports and dancing were the principal amusements.

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