

Celebrating 175 years of Manchester Unity in New Zealand

Early days...

In the very early days of the Lodge raising funds was a very important issue.

Fines became an important means of having funds available as required, and the following indications show that even very small fines made an important contribution to the running of the Lodge.

Summoned meetings were held every two to three months and the notices for these were hand delivered to the members. Failure to attend such meetings resulted in fines of 6d per member, and the names of all the "offenders" were recorded in the minutes.

Some of the regular fines included: - using improper language 3d; sleeping during a meeting 6d; singing an indecent song 3d; not accepting office as Guardian 6d. In 1844 eight members were fined 6d each for laughing during an Installation.

In 1856 it was resolved "that Brother Nicholl have the cow and the two young steers belonging

to the Widow and Orphans' Fund for 14 pounds, provided they live after they have been castrated, one week after the operation."

In 1860 every member was charged 1 penny to go towards paying the hall insurance.

By 1884 the funds of the Lodge were 3065 pounds, made up of 300 pounds in the bank earning 6%; mortgages on freehold properties 1135 pounds earning 8%; Government and Municipal Debentures 954 pounds earning 6%, and the balance earning 5% on short term investments.

Funeral benefits paid out were 18 pounds per member; the Funeral benefit levy was 2/6d per member, and the invested funds earned 6%. To be continued ...

To be continued.....

**Excerpts from the Booklet "Trials and Triumphs" -
1842 to 2017**

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