

By-Laws

—OF THE—

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Society of Spiritualists

—OF—

VICTORIA, B. C.



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Jas. A. Cohen, Printer, 38 Fort Street,
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Preamble.

THE members of this Society, believing that disembodied human spirits sometimes manifest themselves or make known their presence and power to persons in the earthly body, and hold realized communications with them, have organised themselves as a corporate body under the name of the First British Columbia Society of Spiritualists.

By-Laws.

NAME AND OBJECTS.

1. The name of this Society shall be "First British Columbia Society of Spiritualists."

2. The objects are as follows:—

a. The support of public lectures, private and public meetings, seances, and the building of a hall and lecture room.

b. The establishment, support and maintenance of a library, lyceums and such other scientific undertakings as may be deemed best by the Society for the furtherance and investigation of the claims of Spiritualism.

c. To stimulate the mind to the freest thought on all subjects, especially the spiritual philosophy and cognate matters; to quicken philanthropic impulses; stimulating enlightening and unselfish labors for human good, under the assurance that the redeemed and exalted spirits of the human race are encompassing them as a cloud of witnesses, inspiring to the work and aiding forward to a certain and glorious time.

MEMBERSHIP.

3. Any person desirous of becoming a member of this Society shall be proposed by a member at

a regular business meeting. At the next regular meeting, the candidate shall be balloted for by secret ballot, and be accepted if two-thirds of the ballots are in favor thereof.

A rejected candidate cannot again be proposed for a space of one year; nor be admitted to any of the meetings during the time.

A member may withdraw from the Society by paying all arrears and giving notice in writing to the Secretary.

MEETINGS.

4. The regular meetings for the transaction of business shall be held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30 P. M., when all business on hand is to be finished before a Seance can take place.

5. The President shall convene special meetings when he shall deem proper, or at the request of two Directors, or five members of the Society. All members shall be notified of such special meeting by at least three days notice.

6. The annual meetings of the Society shall be held on the first Thursday in January, at which meetings the Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian shall give their respective reports; after which the election of officers of the Society shall take place.

DUES.

7. Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

8. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of \$1.00 and a monthly subscription of not less than twenty-five cents.

9. Any members being in arrears five months, shall be notified by the Secretary, and if they then fail to pay within a month thereafter, their name shall be erased from the books.

10. Any members being in arrears, and having their name erased, cannot again be proposed for membership until they have paid the six months subscription in arrears.

11. Any members falling in arrears on account of inability to pay, their dues may be remitted by a majority vote.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

12. The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors. They shall hold office for one year, and shall be eligible for re-election. Should a vacancy occur in the Board, such vacancy shall be filled by an election at the next regular meeting.

There shall also be elected annually a Librarian and two Auditors.

13. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings, maintain order, and conduct the business according to parliamentary usage. He shall countersign all orders for money, and perform all duties pertaining to his office.

14. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of President in the latter's absence, or when called upon to do so by the President.

15. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a correct account of the proceedings of the Society, conduct the correspondence, draw orders on the Treasurer, or Bankers, collect all subscriptions, fines and donations, and hand them over to the Treasurer taking his receipt for same, notify

all members when their subscriptions are five months in arrears. He shall send notice of meetings to all members at least three days before the annual meeting and before any special meeting. He shall give an annual report of the financial standing of the Society; take charge of all books and documents (other than those belonging to the Library or titles of real estate) and perform all the duties appertaining to the office.

16. The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the Society from the Secretary and Librarian, giving them receipts for same, and deposit the same in the name of the Society in the Bank of Garesché, Green & Co (or other banks or houses as may be decided on by the Society) whenever the amount on hand reaches the sum of twenty-five dollars. He shall pay all orders drawn by the Secretary when countersigned by the President and sealed with the seal of the Society. He shall keep an accurate account of all monies paid him by the Secretary and Librarian, and of all monies paid by him for orders, and into the Bank; and render an annual account of the same to the Society.

17. The duty of the Directors is to act with the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer as the Executive Committee of the Society; to audit all accounts before they can be paid; devise and suggest plans to carry out the Society's aims and objects, and to carry out the wishes and decisions of the members as expressed by a majority vote at general meetings. Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but in authorising bills for payment the vote of three member of the Board in favor shall be necessary. No member of the Executive Committee who has any interest in the

payment of a bill shall be permitted to vote thereon.

18. It shall be the duty of the Auditors to audit the accounts of the Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Trustees, before they are presented to the annual meeting.

TRUSTEES.

19. It shall be the duty of the trustees, to hold in trust for the Society all property real or otherwise (except the books belonging to the Library.) and submit the same for the approval of the members whenever called, render an annual account of the property held in trust by them and deliver it up to their successors when they are elected.

SEANCES.

20. There shall be two meetings weekly—Sunday and Thursday evenings,—for the holding of Seances, and such further purposes as shall be deemed best in the interests of Spiritualism.

21. Every member of the Society shall be allowed to introduce a friend at the Sunday evening meetings (with due respect to Article 1.)

22. The Thursday evening meetings shall be open for members only (well known mediums, however, being always admitted). Any meetings, except the business meetings, may be devoted to public lectures, at the discretion of the President.

HARMONY.

23. As the success of the Society entirely depends on the maintenance of good harmony, it shall be lawful, when it is thought desirable that a member withdraw from the Society, to call a special meeting, by at least eight days notice, and

if at such special meeting a majority vote (by ballot) of the members present at such meeting decide that the retirement of such member is desirable, such member's name shall be erased from the roll, and such person shall have no claim against the Society or its funds.

LIBRARY.

24. There shall be a Library in connection with this Society, to consist of books on the Spiritual Philosophy.

25. There shall be a library fund maintained by donations, by library fees, fines and an appropriation from the Society of twenty-five cents per year for each member. The Librarian shall keep an accurate account of such fund.

26. Every member wishing to become a borrower, shall pay a library fee of fifty cents per year in advance; but the right to borrow books ceases with membership, when over five months in arrears.

27. Books borrowed shall be returned to the Librarian at a meeting of the Society, within one month, but may be borrowed again. If not so returned or renewed the borrower shall be fined twenty-five cents for every two weeks, or part of two weeks thereafter. Said fine shall be paid by the Society to the library fund and be part thereof. The Secretary shall notify the delinquent borrower of such fine, and the amount to be charged against the borrower as one month's dues in arrears. The borrower shall be responsible that the borrowed book be returned in as good condition as it was taken out; and to replace any book subject to the usual fines, for not replacing it within one month.

DUTIES OF LIBRARIAN.

28. The Librarian shall take charge and proper care of all books belonging to library; receive the library fee from the borrowers; collect all fines and donations in connection with the library and pay the same over to the Treasurer, taking a receipt for same. See that the Secretary accredit the library fund with the proper appropriation and keep an accurate account of the library fund. He shall receive all books and donations, and keep an alphabetical catalogue of all the library books, and see that the same are properly numbered. He shall attend all meetings of the Society to lend books and receive them when returned. He shall keep a correct list of all the borrowers, and the books they have in their possession, and the date when the books were borrowed. And give an annual statement of the financial standing of the library fund, the number of books borrowed, etc.

AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS.

29. Any by-law may be amended by a two-third vote of the members present at a special meeting after notice in writing has been given to the Secretary, which notice must be read at a regular business meeting, preceding said special meeting.

30. This Society cannot be dissolved as long as five members wish to continue it; and none of its funds or property shall be devoted to any other cause than the carrying out of the aims and objects of the Society.