

The Hibernians.

Seattle has had the pleasure of entertaining forty-four officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians on their way to the national convention of the order, which is being held at Portland this year. This great society is composed of sons of Erin and their descendants, and is recognized as the leading order in the number of its Irish members among all secret societies.

The Hibernians have been in existence since 1836, thus antedating the great Irish immigration which followed the famine of 1848. The order has a membership of about a quarter of a million and has disbursed in benefits since 1878 about \$2,500,000. It is one of the foremost benevolent societies of the country, and it is generally recognized as being strictly benevolent in its purposes, which is not always the case with Irish national societies.

Seattle, like every American city, has a large population of native born Irish, and very much larger population of those who have Irish blood in their veins. Indeed, it is becoming hard to find a man, with three generations or so of American blood on one side of his family line, who has not some Irish blood in one of the other lines of his pedigree.

The national convention of the order is bringing a considerable number of people to the Coast this summer, and a fair share of them are likely to visit Seattle either coming or going. The climate of the Pacific Northwest has a peculiar attraction to men of Irish birth, for it has so many points of similarity to the climate of their native land. The convention and the visit here of so many of the members of the order are likely to result in many of the visitors determining to cast their lot with us in the near future.