

# GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA A.F. & A.M.

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## A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

In welcoming the Year 1936 we extend the wish to all members in this Jurisdiction, that you will have a Happy New Year, and in your daily walk "communicate happiness to others." While 1935 has, for many folk, been an uphill climb and the going far from pleasant, the difficulties encountered have, in the main, been met courageously. There have been gleams of sunshine that have caused most people to admit that it might have been worse.

As we review the events of the past twelve months, particularly when seen against the background of the half dozen years that preceded them, our hearts rejoice over the very real betterment of conditions, and we are looking to a speedy return to normal prosperity. With this statement we do not mean a return to the flush and balmy days of the early twenties; those days will not return except in the face of some national or world crisis - may Heaven forbid that. The lessons of adversity we are being taught are painful but they are thorough.

The year commences brightly and the officers are installed. No lodge is going to be bigger than the man at the head of it. The reason that some lodges are progressive is because the Master is full of energy with a desire to do something; while the Master in other lodges is simply marking time until his year of office shall close. I trust that the year will be full of opportunities for service to each member.

"Join hands then, Brothers of the Faith, whate'er your race may be -  
Who serves my Father as a son, is surely kin to me."

Melvin M. Downey - Grand Master

M.W. BRO. V. A. BOWES IS PROMOTED

All lodges in the jurisdiction will sincerely regret the removal from the Province of M.W. Bro. V.A. Bowes, P.G.M. - our Grand Master of last year. While his transfer to Winnipeg means well deserved promotion, in which he has the hearty congratulations of all, the loss of his presence and counsel in all Grand Lodge activities will be severely felt. In the new and important sphere of action to which he has been called, he will have the good wishes of every member of this jurisdiction and his future progress will be watched with the keenest interest by the Craft he served so faithfully and well in Alberta.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE NEWS

The President of the Board of Benevolence would draw attention to the fact that our financial year ends on January 31st, when all cases on the present list of beneficiaries will be reviewed. He therefore requests that Secretaries fill in the forms provided for their half-yearly report so that the Board will have complete information regarding the condition of each beneficiary. An early attention to this will greatly assist the Board in arriving at the needs of each case, in regard to which any recommendations or suggestions made by the Lodge will be carefully and sympathetically considered.

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A man's interest in Masonry is in exact ratio to what he knows of Masonry. You cannot expect a man to be interested in something of which he knows nothing. It takes reading and studying to become a thorough Mason. Of course, taking the degrees gives a man a good start, but he must follow it up by learning its history its traditions, legends and symbols. If he does not, his passion for Masonry wanes and he is lost in the forest of ignorance.

USE OF SEAL ON LODGE DOCUMENTS

The Grand Secretary would direct the attention of the Lodges to the clauses of the Constitution requiring all documents issuing from the Lodge to be signed and sealed. Several lodges are neglecting to seal their notices. Many of them are also in the habit of enclosing with their notices separate typed slips giving notices of motion or other items requiring the attention of their members. These should be attached to the printed notice or some intimation given on the notice that there is an enclosure. In any case the slip should be sealed, otherwise there is nothing to identify it with the issuing lodge. This has already been made a subject of protest by a member, questioning the legality of his lodge notice.

AVOID HASTY JUDGMENT

Freemasons, of all men, should be deliberate in judgment, candid in consideration, charitable in construction, moderate in condemnation. If you feel moved to criticize a brother, suppose you see him first. Talk over the matter in question and discover his view-point. Probably it is at a different angle from that which presented itself to you. Perhaps, after all, it is the right angle, and you may be spared the ignominy of doing him an injustice. Perhaps he can tell you things you did not know. On the other hand, perhaps you can enlighten him, and lead him to see the error of his way. How much better to convince and reform him than to convict and destroy. At any rate, it is a satisfaction to be sure you are right before you go ahead.

London Freemason

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The faults we see in others would seem small to us if we could but see our own.

THE UNIVERSALITY OF MASONRY IS DEMONSTRATED

In the City of London expatriated Freemasons work in their own languages, under Charters granted by the United Grand Lodge of England. An Annual Communication of these Lodges, each acting as host in rotation had been a feature since 1910, except, unfortunately during the War Years. The practice of meeting annually was revived in 1932 and the following extract is from one of the last addresses made by the late Lord Ampthill, Pro Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, as guest of honor. The seven lodges composing the group are: Pilger 238 (German); La France 2060 (French); Italia 2687 (Italian); L'Entente Cordiale (French); Deutschland 3315 (German); America 3368 (American) and Helvetica 489 (Swiss).

"What then is the present effect of that revival? I think I may go so far as to say that it is to exhibit a "microcosm" of those ideals which engendered the birth of the League of Nations, to demonstrate that men of all Nations and all Creeds can dwell together in unity provided that they concentrate on those things on which all good men are agreed rather than upon those on which few men are agreed, namely the questions political and religious which produce division in every community great or small. What a good practical lesson for all those who aim at the Utopia of disarmament, the Parliament of man and the Federation of the World! What a demonstration of those practical advantages of Freemasonry which we have been permitted to exemplify within the British Empire in every part of the World.

"The members of Pilger and Deutschland are keeping alive the flame of the torch which will some day revive the light of Freemasonry in Germany. The members of Italia are preserving a tradition which may be some day joyously revived by their fellow countrymen in Italy. The members of La France and L'Entente Cordiale are there to show their fellow

countrymen in France that there is a form of Freemasonry which is entirely free from political and subversive tendencies and only exists for the furtherance of their own ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity. The members of America are there to show that the English speaking race throughout the World is united in an inviolable adherence to the landmarks of our Order. The members of Helvetica are there to demonstrate that Freemasonry is a soil on which it is possible to plant the genuine and original ideals of that League of Nations, which is housed in their country. I submit therefore that this splendid gathering of good men and true from many countries is one of more than ordinary significance.

"It may be the beginning of a movement which, continuing almost imperceptibly, will have world-wide effects, a generation or two hence. These things depend upon intellectual, and even more upon spiritual, reactions. I therefore implore you all to regard this occasion not as a mere ephemeral conviviality but as a convention brought about by some mysterious force, like that of the attraction of atoms, of kindred spirits. The concentration is no doubt temporary and nebulous at the present time, but there is no reason why, with reiteration, it should not become a solid and permanent conglomeration and a new element strong enough to influence the course of European civilization. If any of you think that this is an extravagant and idle dream I would say to them, look at the beginnings of Freemasonry of which we have any historical records. What a small and insignificant movement it was, and what a big world-wide influence it has become. Who will dare to say that we have reached our limit? Who can pretend to foresee the future? Who will presume to measure the force or calculate the destination of that tide of events on which we are all being swept along like straws in a current?

WHEN TO RECOMMEND A CANDIDATE

There are six considerations which should justify a Mason in endorsing an applicant's petition for Freemasonry:

1. The readiness and suitability of the candidate for Masonic teaching. Is he likely to be suitable material for the principles of Masonry to work upon?

2. The candidate's attitude towards Benevolence. Is he stingy, miserly and mean or has he a generous disposition, (apart from the means of benevolence) towards his fellow men?

3. His capacity to keep up with the Lodge's demands and responsibilities. Will his family and business suffer?

4. His general social position. Will he adjust himself to the social life of the Craft?

5. What effect will his admission have upon the members? Will they welcome him or ignore him or make him feel that he is not wanted?

6. Will his admission raise or maintain the standard and tone of the Lodge. Would the Lodge be better off without his influence working among the brethren? Will he uphold the traditions of the Lodge?

Can a Lodge afford to admit any one who does not come up to all these requirements?

Monthly Summons of St. Andrew's  
Lodge, Halifax, N.S.

Freemasonry was not designed for any but the intelligent. The grand moral truths contained in its ritual cannot be understood nor appreciated by an ignorant man. If such are admitted they soon tire of its ceremonies, into the spirit of which they are unable to enter, and soon drop out.

ON PAST MASTERS

The presence of many Past Masters has a deep significance. It is tribute to the character of the Lodge, its true perception of the real principles of the institution and an enforcement of the wisdom displayed in selecting officers in the years gone by. Invariably the Lodge which enjoys the attendance of Past Masters is a successful Lodge in every respect, whether it has acquired numerical strength or not. It holds the loyalty of these workers of by-gone days because of the fraternal fellowship which has prevailed throughout the years and because the spirit of Masonry has always been the foundation of its practices and conduct.

Fortunate the Lodge which retains its hold on the hearts of its Past Masters and all honor to the Past Masters who have imbibed so deeply of the beauties of Masonry that their inclination brings them regularly to Lodge meetings.

"Square & Compasses" - New Orleans

READ THE BULLETIN IN YOUR LODGE

In the mass of mail business men are accustomed to many circulars of all kinds and descriptions and soon learn to rapidly sift important material from the pile. This Bulletin may appear, in its modest dress, of the unimportant variety, but it is believed its contents are worth perusal if only as expression of opinion on matters Masonic here and elsewhere. The style and contents can no doubt be improved with greater expenditure, so meantime, when inclined to criticize, please remember that Grand Lodge itself set the present limits.

Have the Bulletin read in your Lodge anyway, it will take but a few minutes. There is the germ of an idea for someone in it. Don't lay it aside as just another circular. Constructive criticism is very welcome, but again, remember the limits of appearance have been set, at least until next June.

A.M.M.