

GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

Grand Lodge of Alberta..... A. F. and A. M.

Vol. 2

June 1937

No. 10

GRAND LODGE

In a few days the Thirty-second Annual Communication of Grand Lodge will meet in the City of Calgary. To that communication will come Masters and Wardens from all corners of the Province. Freemasonry in this Jurisdiction will take stock of itself and those in high places will account for their stewardship.

May we again recommend to Worshipful Masters a careful perusal of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge for the last two or three years. By so doing an intelligent understanding of the procedures of Grand Lodge will make the sessions more interesting and profitable and enable the energetic and forceful Master to present his ideas with some knowledge of what has been done and some appreciation of the dignity of Grand Lodge routine,

The Annual Communication of Grand Lodge is an endeavor to interpret an ideal in action and the views of the Masters of the Lodges, the District Deputy Grand Masters for the Districts and the Grand Master, Grand Secretary and Special Committees for the Jurisdiction, together present the picture of Alberta Freemasonry for the year.

It is no part of the duty of the present writer to anticipate these views but in his belief that Freemasonry in Alberta can realize its ideals in more vigorous fashion, and secure in its knowledge of its own time-tested truths, the forthcoming Grand Lodge should be productive of constructive debate and ideas aimed at bringing the Ancient Craft again to the forefront in altruistic endeavor.

Upon the Masters who come to the communication rests the burden of such a move. Knowledge of our powers and purposes gained from study of what has been done, what can be done, and what should be done, is extremely valuable and no Master should come without the reading of at least one volume of the printed proceedings and a sound working knowledge of the Book of Constitution. That is his duty and his privilege.

A.M.M.

THE BULLETIN

With this issue we reach the end of Volume 2. Whether it has met the requirements of our readers must remain a subject for their comment. The editor ventures the hope that the Bulletin will be discussed as a separate topic on the floor of Grand Lodge so that those who will direct its future fortunes may gather the opinions of those best placed to express them, and so meet their wishes in volumes to come.

In the meantime, the present editor wishes to express his appreciation of the very kindly reception of his efforts and his sincere thanks to the many brethren who have communicated with him upon Bulletin items and policy.

THE CORONATION BULLETIN

As an echo of our special coronation number and in reply to several queries as to the status of His Majesty King George VI as Grand Master of Scotland, we are now able to quote the following official paragraph from the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Scotland just received from Edinburgh:

"The Chairman intimated that by command of the Grand Master Mason, he was authorized to advise Grand Committee of his Majesty's resignation from office on his accession to the Throne. Brother Sir Iain Colquhoun also stated that while the brethren regretted that his Majesty's accession to the Throne entailed his resignation from active participation in the Craft, they would be ever grateful for the splendid manner in which, as Duke of York, he had carried out his duties during the Bi-Centenary of Grand Lodge, and for the honour which he had conferred on Scottish Freemasonry by his installation as Grand Master Mason."

COLLECTIVE BALLOTING

The question has been raised lately regarding the validity of a "collective ballot" in cases where two or more applicants are balloted for at the same meeting, some members claiming that the practice was masonically legal and correct. In 1930 M.W. Bro. Rev. Canon S.H. Middleton, G.M. ruled that a "collective ballot" taken for three applicants was irregular and ordered an individual ballot to be taken.

In all cases where more than one applicant is being balloted for, arrangements should be made to have sufficient ballot boxes to enable the members when casting their ballots to do so for each applicant in a separate box. It must always be remembered by those brethren who are members of other organizations that regulations which pertain elsewhere have no bearing in Masonry. Freemasonry is unique in the fashion in which it is governed and conducts its business.

- V. H. Macaulay -
Grand Master,

TRENDS

(An Editorial in the "Masonic Craftsman" Boston)

Civilization can to a very great extent be tested by the importance of the individual. The most civilized countries in the world are those where the individual counts for most, and the least civilized countries are those where the individual as an individual, as a spiritual and rational being, counts for least.

There exists a deepseated "error" of independence as opposed to interdependence between different States and communities of the world. The European anarchy, for instance, leads straight to the concentration of power in the hands of the State. Fear makes frightened people huddle together like a flock of frightened animals. Fear is the child of European anarchy; of the mighty armaments, which are themselves an expression of that anarchy. The greater the fear, the greater the power of the State.

The more widespread the fear of attack the easier it is for the State to put forward the argument that the individual, with his wishes and his peculiarities and his heresies, and all minorities of the community, have to suppress themselves in the higher interest of national strength and national safety.

Evidence of the truth of this lies all about in the changes toward intense nationalism and away from the democratic ideal. There is infinitely less freedom in the world today than before the War. The League of Nations, though most useful for dealing with small offenders, has shown itself to be incapable of dealing with great offenders, and utterly indispensable as it is in the complete absence of any thinkable alternative, it remains more of an ideal than a controlling force.

Dictatorships are children of the great upheaval produced by the War, not only of the great economic and material upheaval, but of the great revolution in men's ideas. Young people have been born into and grown up in a world of suffering and confusion and strife, and in places like Germany at any rate, of political humiliation, with memories of defeat and disaster in their minds and in their hearts. No wonder that the old ideals make so little appeal.

Every dictator has a good deal to show for his run. He can get things done; sweep things out of the way; but all the time he is trampling on the spiritual freedom of the individual. The longer his rule lasts the more people he disappoints; the more these instincts, deep down in human consciousness, of self-determination and self-realization will begin to assert themselves.

No man, whether he be a Freemason or not, will willingly allow those vital things for which his ancestors fought to be brought to nought or changed to that new form of government which is destructive of human ideals and which today characterizes much of the older portion of the world.

We are again prompted to remind our readers of that admirable motto of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts - "FOLLOW REASON".

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO GRAND LODGE

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Montana, M.W. Bro. John Kain, has graciously accepted our Grand Master's invitation to attend our Annual Communication and he will probably be accompanied by M.W. Bro. H.S. Hepner, P.G.M., Grand Historian and Correspondent of that Grand Lodge.

We will also be especially favored by a visit from the Assistant Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan, V.W. Bro. Robert A. Tate, who will represent his Grand Master on this occasion.

It will be a great privilege to welcome these representatives of Grand Lodges whose jurisdictions border on our own.

IMPOSSIBLE EXPECTATIONS

Many problems confront the Masonic Craft. Some are quite simple, others are perplexing and require a great deal of time and consideration in their solving. One of the common types of problem is the case of the wife of a recently deceased brother. She has been suddenly bereft, perhaps has several children to support, her funds are extremely limited, so she turns to her husband's Lodge for assistance.

Now the average Masonic Lodge is not exactly rolling in wealth. There are many, many expenses to be met, certain obligations, both large and small must be discharged. But here the Lodge is faced with the plight of a distraught widow, who appeals for immediate aid. Quite naturally she turns to Masonry to meet her financial needs — and the truth must be told her, although the brethren are loath to face this unpleasant task.

Masonry is not a beneficial society, that is, it does not and cannot pay death "benefits". It is purely a fraternal institution and has no insurance features. While Masonic charity is proverbial, and while the Craft has done much to alleviate want and suffering on the part of a Mason's widow and children, still the individual Lodge must not be expected from its slim revenues to support widows or orphans.

It is only necessary to consider the low rate of Masonic dues to realize that it would be financially impossible for the Lodge to aid materially the dependents of deceased brethren. There are so many calls upon Masonry for financial assistance that it must not surprise the petitioners when their appeals are not always met. After all, Masonry is doing a splendid work along altruistic lines, but its activities in this direction must of necessity be limited to its financial condition.

The great Craft need not be ashamed of its past performance in the interest of the widow and orphan, the aged and infirm, for it is a record of achievement, honestly and sincerely attained.

"L.W." in "The New Age".