

GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA ~ A. F. AND A. M.

Vol. 3

November 1937

No. 3

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

All the seventeen District Meetings now have been held and the D.D.G.M.'s for next year who have been selected will no doubt be considering their plans as a result of the reports and discussions which took place at the annual gathering of their district. Without exception these have been good meetings, as brethren have taken time from their daily avocations to attend in large numbers. All were marked by the harmony and good fellowship and especially the thought for others which prevailed. This was no doubt due to the careful organization and direction of the D.D.G.M.'s, each one of whom planned a program particularly suited to his district, which well met the wishes of his brethren, and they must feel amply repaid for their efforts in the success of their meetings.

This month a great many of our lodges throughout the jurisdiction will be engaged in the activity which anticipates the election of officers, while many find themselves busy with programs of work for some months ahead. In spite of this there will still be opportunities to carry on the work so well begun in September and October in organizing and assisting in the gathering of farm produce, clothing and other supplies for the relief of those in need, and I hope when the next bulletin is issued we shall be able to report to the lodges the outstanding success of their efforts.

The demonstration of goodwill and co-operation which has resulted from the call for help for the drouth stricken areas proves that Masonry can be an active and great force for good. The response has indeed been worth while and I as your Grand Master feel profoundly grateful for the genuine, fraternal spirit with which Masons throughout the Province have risen to the occasion. It is hoped that each lodge will inform the office of the Grand Secretary of any work in which it assisted that our records may be complete.

If classes and communities have been brought somewhat more closely together through this common effort of help for those in distress, more than one of the great teachings of our Fraternity will have been given practical expression.

"We are our best when we try to be it not for ourselves alone, but for our brethren; and we take God's gifts most completely when we realize that He sends them to us for the benefit of other men who stand beyond us needing them." — Phillips Brooks.

C. C. HARTMAN,
Grand Master.

SMILE AND THE WORLD SMILES WITH YOU

In the solemnities of the Degree ceremonies there is no room for mirth. Any Brother who vents a guffaw when he should more properly indulge a heart felt sigh is lacking in appreciation of the fitness of things. He fails to realize the effect of his boorish conduct upon the initiate, for a laugh at the wrong time will destroy the influence of the most sincere ritualist, to whom the initiate listens with real earnestness.

The practice of filling a candidate with demon tales of the dire things which may happen him for the sake of possibly ribaldry at his awkward doubts has happily died out and with that practice should also die the silly laugh occasionally heard at one of the most solemn moments.

Yet there is ample room in Masonry for the cleansing ministry of hearty laughter. In the social hour after Lodge is the time to fully indulge it. A good laugh relaxes tension, chases gloom and aids digestion. The old-time Kings who employed jesters to perform at their feasts were alive to the value of laughter and encouraged mirth as aid to relaxation and the comfortable enjoyment of hearty eating.

Every man knows the tonic value of a hearty laugh. Lack of humor is a sad business leading in the later years to the sallow and wrinkled countenance wherein all the features seem to run chinward and the eyes dull like dusty windows. Says the Good Book: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine". Laugh by all means when you can. If you can laugh at yourself on occasion you are fortunate indeed. But never laugh at the expense of another's feelings. Laugh with your neighbor, never at him.

Off-color stories have no place in a Lodge and while we are quite ready to admit that rabelesian humor has its value it is a highly dangerous type to be avoided by all but the most sophisticated and discerning.

As Masons let us enjoy fun and so dissolve frets, but let it be clean fun indulged at the proper time.

"Every time a man smiles, and more when he laughs, it adds something to his fragment". (Sterne).

A.M.M.

SWEDEN

His Majesty King Gustav V, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Sweden, has appointed his Private Chamberlain, Count H. von Stedingk, as successor to the late Sir Admiral Arvid Lindman, and also has appointed Gen. Johan Gustav Nauckhoff to succeed the late Brother Charles R. Dickson.

It will be remembered that Brothers Lindman and Dickson lost their lives in an airplane accident early in December while returning to their homes after attending the two-hundredth anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

ANOTHER LORD MAYOR IS MASTER OF MASONIC LODGE

After an interval of two years, the office of Master of Guildhall Lodge No.3116, London, Eng., was again assumed by a Lord Mayor of London in the person of Sir George Broadbridge, who was installed in the Chair at a meeting of the Lodge held at the Mansion House, the ceremony being performed by the Earl of Harewood, K.G., Pro Grand Master. Since the consecration of Guildhall Lodge in 1905, twenty-one Lord Mayors of London have served as Master.

ABOUT N.P.D.

Where two or three Masons are gathered together they rarely disperse without going into the N.P.D. problem. Without having facts and figures to sustain the assertion, one is justified in saying that dues collecting, considering general conditions, is much better than might be expected.

But whether the collection satisfactorily progresses or otherwise, there will always be, in the best of times, the problem of N.P.D. Some fellow will always be behind, and something will have to be done about it. Of course, if the man can and simply will not pay, the solution is easy; handle him legally and write him off the records, so far as the future is concerned, and Masonically forget him unless and until he squares himself financially.

The N.P.D. situation, however, is not as simple as all that. There is the brother who has been paying all along, but is now "in touch" and is too touchy to admit it. There is the one who "is all in" and will never, very likely, keep up his dues again. There is the stubborn man who forgets his dues but resents being reminded of them. There is the one who is always "hard up" who needs the amount necessary to pay dues whenever called upon for settlement, but is in the condition because he is too reckless a spender for the things that more strongly tickle his senses than such prosaic activities as paying Lodge dues. There is the fellow who does not care a hoot one way or the other.

For the good of the Lodge and Masonry, and in justice to the member concerned it is necessary to take each case individually on its merits. The Mason who simply will not pay is a liability on the Lodge. Other members resent having to pay regularly while they see a delinquent just as able to pay enjoy all the privileges and rights of Masonry. For the same reasons, it is necessary to do everything possible to keep in good standing every Mason who remains unpaid solely for the reason that he cannot pay.

Diplomacy, good business-like efforts to collect, considerate appeals, and such other moral suasion, should be resorted to in the majority of cases, for there is no reason why a large number of N.P.D.'s cannot be converted into paid-ups. Much of the laxity, stubbornness, piques, and other contributing causes can be ironed out by good secretarial or committee activity.

It must never be forgotten that the suspended Mason will henceforth be an ex-Mason with a grouch. Through the years, from time to time, he is going to make disparaging remarks about Masonry, about the Lodge, about certain of his brethren. What he says is not going to be at all good for the young man thinking of petitioning for the degrees.

Thus, for the good of Masonry, for the good of the Lodge, for the good of the man, for the good of the prospective candidate who is acquainted with the man, no Mason should be allowed to travel the N.P.D. back trail until every rightful thing has been done to prevent it.

No one is smart enough to present a hard-and-fast rule of action that will justly cover each case. It is as easy to be too soft as to be too hard-boiled—and vice versa.

Digested from "The Virginia Masonic Herald"

SIBELIUS - MUSICIAN AND MASON

Even among the Craft it is not generally known that Jean Sibelius, who, in the opinion of those best competent to judge, is the foremost living figure in the field of creative music, is also a Right Worshipful Brother of the Grand Lodge of Finland, which is a Masonic offspring of our own Grand Lodge (New York).

Nearly all of us who enjoy listening to fine music are familiar with R. W. Bro. Sibelius' great tone-poem "Finlandia", his "Valse Triste", and other examples of his genius. Few, however, are aware that he has also composed Masonic ritual music for use in the Finnish Grand Jurisdiction. This music, inspired by R. W. Bro. Sibelius' affection for our Fraternity and its ancient ritual, must be held to rank with his best work. It has vitality, beauty and expressiveness, and irresistibly suggests the composer's native Finland, with her forest-fringed lakes, and bracing pine-scented air.

Masonic Outlook, New York.

(Note: The music, with English words, has been published by the Grand Lodge of New York and may be obtained by those interested by communicating with the Grand Secretary through our Grand Secretary. Price \$1.25 for a series of nine numbers with cue sheets for ritual placing. The music must be used for Masonic ritual purposes only and a guarantee to this effect will be required).

PRESTON'S SERVICES TO FREEMASONRY

A Masonic scholar and lecturer of the eighteenth century, William Preston was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, August 7, 1742. He is said to have been initiated into Freemasonry in London, about 1762 or 1763, in a Lodge that met at the White Hart Tavern in the Strand. This Lodge later became Caledonian Lodge No. 325.

All during his life, Preston was active in Masonry. In 1772, his first book, Illustrations of Masonry, was published. He had taken the old lectures and work of Masonry, revised them and placed them in such form as to receive the approval of Craft leaders. Encouraged by their favorable reception, he employed, at his own expense, lecturers to travel and deliver the lectures before Lodges throughout the British Empire.

After his death it was learned that he had provided a fund of £300, the interest of which was to be set aside for the delivery of the Prestonian Lectures once each year. These lectures were abandoned about 1860, chiefly for the reason that they had been superseded by the lectures of Hemming, in the approved work of the United Grand Lodge of England, when that Body was formed by the reunion of the Ancients and Moderns in 1813. The Preston work has, however, been revived recently, and survives in the United States, although somewhat modified by certain American ritualistic authorities.

"New Age"

ENGLISH MASONS RAISE HUGE SUM FOR CHARITY

The English Masonic Craft continues to support loyally its three great benevolent institutions. Even during times of depression the amounts raised to finance these worthy undertakings have been remarkably large. This was well illustrated when, at the 95th festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent institution held recently, a total of £221,393-13s 5d. was raised, this amount being about £20,000 more than the highest of any former festival of this institution.