

# GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

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

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## GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

### MASONRY AT WORK

Masonry in Alberta this autumn has made history and established precedent. History because it is the first time a concerted effort by our lodges has been made to do something for those outside the Order, and Precedent in the widening of the scope of Masonic Charity — a thought that may well be with us this Christmas season.

The effort put forth to ameliorate the sore distress in the drouth areas demonstrated, not so much to those without the Masonic circle, as to our own membership, the strength to accomplish and the ability of the Craft lodges to give direction in their communities for any worth while plan to relieve want and suffering.

The lodges will be interested to know that about one hundred cars of vegetables were shipped to the drouth areas. More than half this number have been reported to Grand Lodge as being shipped through the efforts of the lodges, but we have reason to believe that a great many more may also be credited to the action of our members. The distressed areas in Alberta were well supplied and some carloads were also shipped to similar districts in Saskatchewan.

A number of lodges who were not able to contribute vegetables did their part by supplying quantities of used clothing, and others again sent in very welcome donations in cash, amounting to date to \$365.50. Of these latter, the lodges in Peace River District No. 13 are to be especially commended for their very generous support. This money will supply many children with warm footwear for the winter and if any other lodges can contribute in cash the opportunity is their's, as the need for clothing is unbelievably great.

Your Grand Master is deeply appreciative of the hearty response given to his appeal, which he knows has resulted in relieving the strain in many Prairie homes, especially during the approaching Christmas season. It is his hope that all alike, donors and recipients, will enjoy a happier Christmas because of this tangible expression of goodwill amongst the Masonic Fraternity of Alberta.

CHRISTMAS - 1937

Brethren:

Once a Man had an Idea. He gave that Idea to his fellows and it changed the history of the world.

The Idea is contained in a phrase — The Golden Rule — and it was taught you in symbolic form at the North East Corner.

From the tree of the Golden Rule have sprung as roots, leaves and branches myriad organizations, societies and brotherhoods, thriving in altruism and fostering, each according to its need and interpretation, the precept and practice of an Ideal as old as Time.

Freemasonry, itself an ancient branch on the self-same tree, is but another manifestation of the truth, slowly growing in the minds of men, that the Great Idea is the only Idea and with its full perception will come Millenium Dawn.

It seems fitting that at this traditional anniversary of the Man we should honor the Idea. To Freemasons as to countless others comes the common opportunity. Can we celebrate the Feast of Saint Friend as a time for searching our personal practice of the Golden Rule, while, conforming to custom, we contribute our share to the general feasting and merry-making?

A little leaven shall leaven the lump and the concentrated leaven of Freemasonry has done much, but can do more to leaven the lump of selfishness in the hearts of men.

To the individual Mason is set the task. With the plumb of Truth he may test himself and those about him; with the square he may set his actions within the due bounds of character and confidence and on the level move with quiet thought to the destined goal, unaffected by false emotion or the empty enthusiasms of the day.

Perfection is born in the breast of no man, but Freemasonry points the Light upon the far hill top and invites Masons to steer by that Light, knowing that if perfection can never be attained "to travel hopefully is better than to arrive."

To all the Brethren, in the hope that each will see the Great Star, your Editor sends the old, old greeting — a Right Merry Christmas to end a year filled with pleasant memories.

A.M.M.

OLD MASONIC BENEDICTION

May no strife disturb thy days, nor sorrow disturb thy nights, and the pillow of peace kiss thy cheek, and the pleasures of imagination attend thy dreams; and when length of years hath made thee tired of earthly joys, and the curtains of death gently close round the scene of thy existence, may the angels of God attend thy bed and take care that the expiring lamp of life shall not receive one rude blast to hasten its extinction; and, finally, may the blessing of God wash thee free from all impurities and prepare thee to enter into the land of everlasting felicity.

-- "The Cable Tow", Philippine Islands.

### ON THE HISTORY OF THE SQUARE

Pliny says that Theodorus, a Greek of Samos, invented the square and level, but the square figure is seen in the represented designs of the Tower of Babel, one of the earliest important known structures. The city of Babylon was a perfect square, and the bricks used in its buildings and walls were square. So probably were those in Babel. To form small squares correctly and to introduce them in endless combination into buildings needed a guiding instrument of some kind. So the square, as a constructive tool, came into use.

Among the ruins of Ninevah, Babylon and Petra it is said to have been found represented. There are pictures and sculptures from the ruins of Thebes in Egypt, showing the square in the hands of the artisan. Evidence of its use is also to be seen in ruins in India, thought by some to antedate that found in Egypt. Among the ruins of the Aztecs, or people before them, in Peru and Brazil it has also been found, and though tools of stone and flint, such as axes, hatchets, hammers, etc., were doubtless the first used by primitive man in these ruins that date back before written history, the square is found, and the specimens may be seen in the British Museum.

The square was regarded by the ancients as a symbol of completeness. Simonodos speaks of a man square as to his hands, feet and mind. Aristotle used a similar figure.

— "The Freemason", London, England.

### SOME TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

From the Grand Lodge Bulletin of the Grand Lodge of Iowa we learn that a Service Committee in sending out material for the use of the lodges propounds a series of questions for discussion purposes, and the list for October is so provocative that it is reproduced here in the belief that our lodges might find the discussion highly profitable. The questions are as follows:

1. Are the responsibilities of the lodge to the newly made Mason completely fulfilled when he has been given the charge of the Third Degree?
2. The Master is supposed to set the Craft at work and give them "proper instruction"; what may "proper instruction" rightly include?
3. What are some of the evidences of the great principle of Masonic toleration?
4. We are told that Masonry is a progressive science; we are also told that its fundamental principles are unchanging; are these statements inconsistent?
5. Why is it necessary that a man approach Masonry "of his own free will and accord", rather than by solicitation?

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"Love for the living should inspire us with reverence for the departed, from whose examples of virtue and devotedness we should draw encouragement and stimulation to greater patience and courage in the performance of life's duties, and greater sacrifice in the cause of our fellow men."

— Samuel Poyntz Cochran, P.G.M. Texas.

THE BRETHREN ELSEWHEREINDIATribute by a Ruler

A tribute to Freemasonry as a potent influence for good was made by the Nizam of Hyderabad, who received an address by Freemasons of the State during his recent Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

"Freemasonry", said the Nizam, "promotes brotherly feeling among men, which is specially valuable in a country like India, divided as it is by castes and religions. Besides this, a great deal of charitable work is done among the poor by the Freemasons with their own funds, and all these useful activities are without political or other ulterior aim.

The Nizam pointed out that his appreciation of the Craft's utility has been shown by the fact that an ancient and beautiful building, the Goshamahal Baradari, had been set aside for the use of the three Lodges in Hyderabad as a Masonic Temple.

ENGLANDGrand Secretary Resigns

Due to illness, Sir Philip Colville Smith, Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, has tendered his resignation to the Grand Master. Sir Colville's career as a Mason started over fifty years ago when he became a member of Apollo University Lodge No. 357. His first Masonic office was that of Master of that Lodge in 1890.

King George Installed as P.G.M.

The meeting of the United Grand Lodge of England in June last was marked by the formal acceptance and investiture of King George VI with the rank of Past Grand Master. The ceremony took place in the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of some 9,000 Masons. Never before in English history or in that of Freemasonry has a monarch of England, as such, been presented at a Masonic meeting.

SCOTLANDCassilis Reinstalled

The Earl of Cassilis, who has visited Canada and the United States as a Masonic guest, has been reinstalled First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland for the twenty-fifth term of office. The ceremony was performed by M. E. Companion C. C. Nisbet of Stobshiels, who first initiated the Earl into Royal Arch Masonry in 1899.

New Temple for Glasgow

A Masonic Temple which promises to be one of the architectural features of Glasgow is to be built at a contemplated cost of half a million dollars. Plans have been made, it is stated, to begin the structure in 1939.

BRAZILGrand Lodges Closed

The Scottish Rite News Bureau of the United States has received a cablegram from Ceara, Brazil, dated October 24th, 1937, stating that all Masonic Grand Lodges of that country have been closed by the Government. No details are yet available.