

GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

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"A CLOUD AS BIG AS YOUR HAND"

It is certainly not the business of the Editor of this Grand Lodge Bulletin to act the part of alarmist, but he does believe it his duty to report opinion in public prints as they concern Freemasonry here and elsewhere.

In the current issue of "McLean's" appears an article entitled "Fascism in Canada". The significant statement, concerning us, made by the author is this:

"The movement is frankly anti-Jew, anti-Communism, and is opposed to the Masonic Order, which its leaders claim is controlled by Jews."

The article likewise refers to one William Whittaker of Winnipeg, alleged publisher of a Fascist monthly called "The Canadian Nationalist" which contained in its February issue a vicious attack on Freemasonry, branding it as a Hebrew machine, lock, stock and barrel.

From that issue of "The Canadian Nationalist" it appears that two Masonic books, which incidentally are about as secret as yesterday's newspaper, "very fortunately came into possession" of this Nationalist leader writer and from them he has made "a startling story" proving to the hilt in his jaundiced imagination that Freemasonry is a Jewish organization secretly controlled and used as a cats-paw for Hebrew machinations.

Here are three statements from his pen:

"CANADIAN WORKERS! Your unions, etc., are 'plugged' with Freemasons and they are under oath to protect their Jew - Masonic, international brothers in preference to a non-mason. All union secrets, etc., are quickly put into the hands of the Jews through these Masons. Macdonald of England is a good example of what happens to working people when they depend on a Freemasonic leadership."

"The Courts of Justice are filled with Freemasons who are under oath to protect brother Masons, in any crime, RIGHT OR WRONG."

"Remember, the majority of the leaders of the old parties have been, and still are Freemasons. Any party admitting them will lead you to the same chaotic conditions which we have today - to the brink of a "Jewish Communistic Revolution for which the Jew has been working for so many centuries."

We hold no brief to defend the Jewish people or anyone else. We believe firmly in the freedom of the press as a weapon of democracy, but believe just as firmly that such sheets as "The Canadian Nationalist", rabble-rousing, Jew-

baiting, dictatorship-fostering, and generally mean to the nth degree are something that Canadian intelligence and particularly Anglo-Saxon Canadian intelligence can very well do without.

Falsehood is always dangerous and falsehood from the poisoned pen of fanaticism is not only dangerous but criminal abuse of the credulity of the desperate.

Remembering the fate of their brethren in Italy, Russia, Germany, Spain and now in Austria, will Canadian Freemasons "Stop, Look and Listen" or, wishfully thinking, assume the present menace merely another eruption of blatherskitery and be caught in the deluge? Or will the attack prove to be a blessing in disguise, rousing Freemasonry from its apparent complacency of the last decade?

A.M.M.

THE CARDINAL VIRTUES LAW AND LIBERTY

It will be but a summing up of what has been intimated in the series of articles on the Cardinal Virtues to devote a brief space in this number of the Bulletin to a discussion of the relation between law and liberty.

Freedom is a priceless heritage. We who have fallen heir to it seem not to realize that in common with all precious things, it was bought at a price and that a price must be paid to preserve and hand it on. Through great areas of the world liberty as we know it has ceased to exist and it is in danger in our own community. What is liberty? To the unthinking it means the right to do what we like without regard to the welfare of others. But such is not liberty but license.

A simple illustration will suffice. Take the matter of traffic regulation. The King's Highway is free for the use of all. But if there were no rules of the road what would happen? With cars, trucks and buses being driven at the sweet will of each driver as to speed, side of the road, right of way at intersections, only super tanks could be used on the highway at all, and that at peril of life and limb. But as a result of experience rules of the road are defined, the police power of the state steps in and so the child on the way to school can safely cross the street. By the operation of wise laws which crystallize the wishes of the overwhelming majority the true freedom of use for the common good is achieved. Of course the unsocially minded have to be controlled and if necessary punished. To be effective law must rest upon common consent, otherwise it soon becomes a dead-letter. The commonest error of the would-be reformer is to seek to have laws of prohibition or compulsion enacted before public opinion is ready for them. Before any law is effective it must express the overwhelming consent of those affected. Even dictators must carefully cultivate public opinion.

Countless illustrations could be drawn from sport, business, politics, industry and indeed every field of human interests to show that many of our present ills can only be remedied when we learn and put into practice the truth that true liberty can only be achieved and practised under wise laws well enforced.

— A. E. Ottewell.

THE SUCCESSFUL LODGE

Just what constitutes a successful Masonic Lodge? Is it a body that has plenty of candidates and performs its ritualistic work efficiently and in a pleasant manner? Is it a body with active and efficient officers? Is it one

that owns its Temple and observes its charitable obligations?

The Committee on Masonic Service and Education of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota recently issued a memorandum on the subject worthy of thought. The statement in full follows:

'We again direct the attention of lodge officers to the unquestioned importance of efficiency in lodge organization and administration. Efficiency may be an over-worked word, just as service sometimes appears to be, but no other word will do. We must have efficiency everywhere in this twentieth century. It is just as important in a Masonic Lodge as in a bank, a factory, or a Rotary Club. Why? Because we cannot command the unflagging interest and enthusiastic support of our membership unless that membership feels that we have an objective in our Lodge and are making some progress toward it.

What must be the objectives of the successful Lodge?

1. It must provide good, accurate and effective ritualistic work. The impressive conferring of our degrees is essential.
2. It must provide for the proper financing of all Lodge activities. The planning and preparation of a balanced budget for a Lodge is now imperative.
3. It will take heed to the needs of Masonic relief for the distressed worthy brother. The efficient Lodge will have a relief fund.
4. It must include a more definite and far reaching program of Masonic education.
5. It will take cognizance of the need of an adequate plan for the social life of the Lodge.
6. It will include a definite contribution to the life of the community through Masonic service.

There may be other things which might be included, but these we feel important. If we admit the value and importance of the above, then the whole question resolves itself into the attainment of the same. How? By proper organization and effective administration. This means that Lodge officers must take their election and appointment more seriously. The mere holding of an office can no longer be tolerated; too much is at stake. It should be incumbent upon every Master just as soon as he is installed to call his officers together, select the various committees and survey with care the Lodge situation then formulate a comprehensive plan, including the several objectives of a Lodge and then work the plan. The Master must be efficient and he must demand efficiency all down the line. The time has gone when careless and haphazard methods will do. We solicit earnestly the consideration of these suggestions to the end that the same efficiency may exist in a Lodge as exists in any other worth while organization.'

— "Masonic Tidings"

ON MASONIC RELIEF

Experience has taught that there are but two reasons why we fail (?) to do what the public seems to think we ought to do:

1. In the mind of the said "public", especially those not eligible to the fraternity, the theory has become firmly rooted that Masonry was originally —

and as they believe it is to-day -- founded for the express purpose of carrying out what is known in the other so-called fraternal organizations, the sick and death benefit proposition. This is not now, and never has been the case! Masonry was originally, and is looked upon to-day as in the past, a social organization, pure and simple; and while it is true that, should any of their members become involved in (legitimate) trouble, they will assist them to the best of their ability, yet the cold fact remains that they are not in any way bound to do so. The work of the Lodge in this country, as it now pertains, being an absolute perversion of the original intention! Ergo, a social club with a ritual attachment.

2. The member of the fraternity who, for some reason or other is disfranchised, as it were, more or less temporarily -- or permanently -- from the Order, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred either through negligence or cowardice, allows his family to go under the impression that he is in good standing; and should the time arrive when those he has left behind are, in the slang of the street, "in the hole", then is when we have the time of our lives in disabusing them of the fact that they are not subjects, under the law, of our consideration. A campaign of education on this point, would be a good thing for our relief work - save us an immense amount of trouble.

- The Masonic News.

Masons, above all others, should keep well informed of the progress of events, especially of the laws which govern the country. They should participate in all activities and movements, having for their object the welfare of the nation - not as politicians and partisans but as good citizens - realizing that upon them depend the prosperity and honor of the country, in common with all other citizens. - "The Indiana Freemason."

After all, it does not matter how ancient Masonry - whether it started with Adam, Noah or Solomon - we know it to be good and sound in all its tenets. It does not matter what our forbears were - whether good or evil - it is what we are that counts. - "The Victorian Craftsman."

MUSIC FOR YORK RITUAL

In the November Bulletin an announcement was made of music especially composed by R. W. Bro. Jean Sibelius, member of the Grand Lodge of Finland and famous composer. Copies can now be obtained from the Grand Lodge Office by lodges working the York Rite, through the kindness of the Grand Lodge of New York.

This music has been studied by the organist of two of our city lodges, Bro. C. Elliott, whose comments have been most enthusiastic. These copies can be supplied at \$1.75 each.