



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: A. M. Mitchell, P.G.M.

## WORDS AND DEEDS

SINCE last we were privileged to write these leaders much has happened to the world and to Masonry. In five more European countries the lights have gone out; five more European countries are under the heel of the conqueror and our own Motherland battles for her life.

Here in Canada we strive to do our part in defence of the freedom we cherish. That we shall fail is unthinkable but the time is here when acts and not talk are indispensable.

As citizens there is no need to doubt that the Masons of Alberta are doing their share. As Masons they have acted in two main directions, first by the generous gift of seventy-five hundred dollars to Canada's War Effort and the English Masonic War Charities and second by an active canvass and a generous response thereto for temporary homes for British Masonic Child Guests when the time comes for their journey to Canada and Alberta.

From a letter from the father of two of these children we quote the following: "I have had considerable misgivings about the value of our Order. Now these misgivings are gone. You have stretched your hand across the sea and offered to take my children away from events which, apart from the physical, might scar them for life. There are no words to convey thanks for that."

Many of us, like our good brother, have had misgivings about the value of our Order in times like these and as many have thrown aside these misgivings in the face of opportunity to serve in this greatest of all emergencies, the fight for our very lives.

Now is the time, if ever, when we can translate our precepts and principles into action, and now is the time when as individuals we can check our own performance in the practice of brotherly love, relief and truth. Is your Masonry mere attendance at Lodge, mere lip service to great principles, mere rainbow chasing? Is it a cloak to be thrown aside when personal advantage offers? The future of Freemasonry hinges upon your answer to these

questions for we are a band of brothers bound in fraternal ties to altruistic enterprise and each who fails or sells his bond for personal gain weakens the band and injures his brethren and himself.

As an Order our field of activity is limited, as citizens and members of this band of brothers, individual opportunity for service is everywhere and when we seize these opportunities, strong in our Masonic faith and act for the good of all men, we cannot fail to have marked influence on immediate society.

Nor need there be any flag waving or false evidence of patriotism. The man who does his duty as he sees it without fear or favor, keeping in mind the tenets to which as a Mason he has subscribed, is the man who best exemplifies Masonry in action now and at any time.

A.M.M.

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### LOW TWELVE

By H. B. COLLIER, Viking

AS the candidate in the role of Hiram Abif hears the solemn strokes of the bell at "low twelve", a sermon in poetry comes to his attentive ears: "*Remember now Thy Creator in the days of thy youth*". The soul-gripping drama will never pass from memory, and the import of the allegory should grow clearer with the years.

The writer of Ecclesiastes is thought to be Solomon. His brilliant mind is in evidence in this charming soliloquy, a literary gem. Biblical commentators give two favorite interpretations of the dramatic passage, one the approach of old age and senile decay, and the other a much feared thunder storm. The physical is to be preferred.

Solomon possessed an intellect of extraordinary keenness. Yet it is quite evident he did not show

much wisdom in several features of his career. His great wealth permitted unbounded luxury and extreme license. Considering these facts it is not surprising that he views with much concern the approach of age and consequent failing physical powers.

Let us consider the physical interpretation verse by verse.

1. *Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh when thou shalt say I have no pleasure in them.*

The introductory words are a trumpet call to the careless and indifferent to direct their thoughts to the Creator. The author views the future with sadness as he contemplates senility, when life has lost all zest, when ambition has died and there is no satisfaction in anything.

2. *While the sun or the light or the moon or the stars be not darkened nor the clouds return after the rain.*

Blindness or extreme near-sightedness are as the darkening night or as gloomy weather immediately following a rainstorm.

3. *In the days when the keepers of the House shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened.*

The *Keepers of the House* are the hands which tremble with palsy in advancing age. The *Strong Men* are the legs which become misshapen, and bend or become bow-shaped with the weight of years. The *Grinders* are the teeth which cease mastication when they are few and do not meet. *Those that look out of the windows* is a poetic expression for sight.

4. *And the doors shall be shut in the streets when the sound of the grinding is low and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird and all the daughters of music shall be brought low.*

The *Doors* are the lips chiefly, though other bodily functions are included. *Sound of the grinding*, weakened mastication. The gums make a feeble attempt without teeth. Artificial teeth were unknown in Solomon's time and "gumming" was the only recourse for the aged. *The Voice of the Bird*, the light sleep of the old man who awakens at the twitter of the birds in early morning. *Daughters of Music*, the vocal cords which lose their timbre in old age and approach a childish treble, the cracked voice of senility, or when the hearing is too dull to distinguish and appreciate music.

5. *Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets.*

*That which is high*, a hill terrifies for breath is short. He is timid. Any effort is distasteful owing to stiffness of limbs and lack of strength, and he

realizes he has no reserve for any emergency. *The almond tree* blossoms white like a crown of white hair on the aged. Any little weight even a *grasshopper* is too much a burden for extreme age to carry; or this once active insect which formerly made such great leaps now merely drags itself along like the slow steps of feeble age. *Desire shall fail*. The old have little interest in life, no desire. The Hebrew text uses the word "caperberry" (reputedly an aphrodisiac). Solomon with so many wives, may have contemplated his own declining vigor with some concern.

6. *Or, ever the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.*

The picture is of sudden death, as contrasted with the gradual approach of the end by slow breakdown. Behold a lamp suspended by a very slender chain; the chain breaks; and down comes the lamp, spilling the oil and extinguishing the light. The spinal cord may be taken as the anatomical comparison. *Golden bowl*, the head; the *pitcher*, a failing heart; and *the wheel broken at the cistern*, the kidneys, bladder and prostate gland, all of which give trouble to the aging man.

7. *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the Spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

With the sudden breakdown of these centres of life, the allegory leads us to contemplate the dissolution of the body, the earth receiving the material portion, while the soul or spirit is handed back to the Creator.



## MASONRY DOWN NORTH

IN these columns for January, 1939, was reported an interesting Masonic gathering, the first Masonic Lodge held north of the Arctic Circle on August 30th, 1938.

That meeting has been permanently recorded by the erection of a monument at Coppermine. The monument consists of a three foot granite pillar, weighing 445 lbs., supplied by the Alberta Granite, Marble and Stone Company, and bears a copper plaque with the following inscription:

HERE THE FIRST REGULAR MASONIC LODGE  
WAS HELD

North of the Arctic Circle, August 30, 1938,

by

IVANHOE LODGE No. 142

of Edmonton, Alta.

E. J. Walli of Eldorado Mines was initiated by Special Dispensation of Grand Lodge of Alberta.  
Chas. E. Garnett, M.E.I.C. . . . . Wor. Master  
A. K. Muir, M.Sc. . . . . Senior Warden  
C. R. Harrison, D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C. . . . Junior Warden  
J. B. Tyrrell, LL. D. . . . . Chaplain

H. Larsen, R.C.M.P.....Senior Deacon  
 W. R. (Wop) May, O.B.E., D.F.C....Junior Deacon  
 A. Copland, H.B.C.....Junior Steward  
 J. W. Nichols, H.B.C.....Secretary  
 J. D. Nicholson, R.C.M.P.....Tyler

Lat. 67°48'

Long. W 115°15'

In a cavity in the pillar was deposited a brass cylinder containing the story of the meeting and of those who took part and the memoranda regarding the monument itself.

Since much interest was evinced in the report of the meeting itself, we are glad to publish the data contained in the brass cylinder, which information was kindly supplied by Wor. Bro. C. E. Garnett, who acted as Worshipful Master at the original meeting.

—Editor.

### THE DOCUMENT IN THE CYLINDER

June 22, 1940

This monument was erected in 1940 by Ivanhoe Masonic Lodge No. 142 of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and by the officers who took part in the initiation ceremony described on this monument and in the minutes, which were placed in this cylinder with this document.

The monument, consisting of a pillar of granite, was carved in Edmonton, Alberta, and transported to Waterways, Alberta, by the Northern Alberta Railway and from there to Great Bear Lake by Diesel powered boat by the Northern Transportation Company. From Port Radium, on Great Bear Lake it was flown by aeroplane to its final resting place at Coppermine, by the Canadian Airways Limited, and erected adjacent to the Anglican Church Mission Building.

Coppermine, also known as Ft. Hearne, at the time of the ceremony was a trading post consisting of the following wood frame buildings:

Mounted Police Barracks.

Wireless Station operated by the Department of Transport of the Government of Canada.

Hudson's Bay Company Trading Post.

Post Manager's house.

Roman Catholic Mission Buildings.

Anglican Church Mission Building.

The following is a brief history of those who took part in the ceremony:

Allan Kenneth Muir, B.Sc., M.Sc., who acted as Senior Warden, was born in Burford, Ontario, and graduated from McGill University in Mining Engineering. At the time of the ceremony he was Manager of the Camlaren Gold Mines Ltd., Gordon Lake, about fifty miles east of Great Slave Lake. He had

a distinguished career as a Mining Executive and was a member of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy of London, England. He was a member of Burford Lodge No. 206, Burford, Ontario, Canada.

Squadron Commander C. R. F. Harrison, D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., Croix de Guerre, who acted as Junior Warden, was a member of the Marquis of Tichfield Lodge No. 3350, Nottingham, England. At the time of the ceremony he was acting as Accountant at the Camlaren Mines Ltd., Gordon Lake. In the World War of 1914-18 he was an Officer of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force, and received the decorations which appear against his name. He continued in the Royal Air Force until 1926 when he was retired to civil life with the rank of Squadron Commander. At the outbreak of War on September 3, 1939, he returned to England and became Captain in the British Tank Corps.

J. B. Tyrrell, LL.D., M.A., was born November 1, 1858, at Weston, Ont. Educated at Weston High School and Upper Canada College, Toronto University (B.A. 1887, M.A. 1889) and Victoria University (B.Sc. 1889). He served with the Canadian Geological Survey for a number of years and carried out geological surveys throughout the North West Territories. In 1892 he crossed the Barren Lands from Lake Athabasca to Chesterfield Inlet, a distance of 3,200 miles, 1,650 miles of which was previously unexplored. He travelled to the North East of Great Bear Lake, Reindeer Lake, and across to Hudson's Bay in 1894. In 1898 he was practicing as a Mining Engineer in Dawson City. He was the author of many works of travel and exploration. At the time of the ceremony he was President and Managing Director of the Kirkland Lake Gold Mines, President of the Northern Canada Mining Corp., a Director of Gold Dale Mines Ltd. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society of London, a Fellow of the Geographical Society and the Royal Society of Canada, a Member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario. He was a member of University Lodge No. 496 of Toronto and at the ceremony acted as Chaplain.

Sergeant Henry Larsen, who acted as Senior Deacon, was in command of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police supply ship, St. Roch, which makes an annual voyage from Vancouver to the posts in the Western Arctic, with supplies for the Mounted Police posts. Sgt. Larsen was a member of the Mount Newton Lodge No. 89, Saanich, B.C.

Captain Wilfred Reid May, O.B.E., D.F.C., who acted as Junior Deacon, generally known as "Wop" May. He was Superintendent of the Mackenzie District for the Canadian Airways Limited and was one of the pioneers of aviation in Western Canada and the North West Territories. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his services in the first World War and the Order of the British

Empire for his contribution to civil aviation in the development of flying in the North West Territories. He won the McKee Trophy for the most outstanding contribution to civil aviation in Canada in 1929. A member of Unity Lodge No. 51, Edmonton, Alberta, he was also a member of the Scottish Rite and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine.

John William Nichols was Secretary of the meeting. He was born in St. Johns, Newfoundland, and served with the Hudson's Bay Company for twenty-seven years. At the time of the ceremony he was Manager of the Hudson's Bay Post at Coppermine and previously had been in charge of posts at Wolstenholm, Ponds Inlet and other posts in the St. Lawrence-Ungava District, for the Hudson's Bay Co. He was a member of Avalon Lodge No. 776, Newfoundland.

Alfred Copland, who acted as Junior Steward at the time of the ceremony was District Manager for the Hudson's Bay Company, Western Arctic District, his headquarters in the summer being in Tuktuk, East of the mouth of the Mackenzie River and, in winter, at Edmonton, Alberta. A native of Peterhead, Scotland, he had been in the Hudson's Bay Company employ for over twenty years and formerly was Inspector for this Company in the Eastern Arctic Regions. A member of St. James Lodge No. 256 of Peterhead, Scotland.

John D. Nicholson, who acted as Inner Guard, was born in 1864 and joined the Royal North West Mounted Police (later changed to Royal Canadian Mounted Police) in 1885 and became Staff Sergeant Major and Chief Detective for the Alberta Division. On the formation of the Alberta Provincial Police he became Assistant Commissioner of that body and continued in that position until the Royal Canadian Mounted Police again took over the policing of the Province. On the outbreak of the War in 1939 he again joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He belonged to Unity Lodge No. 51, Edmonton.

Charles E. Garnett, born April 21, 1887, in Manchester, England, who acted as Worshipful Master, was a Past Master of Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142, of Edmonton, Alberta; President of Gorman's Limited (Mining and Industrial Machinery merchants in Edmonton, Alberta.) He graduated in Electrical Engineering from the Manchester College of Technology and was a Past President of the Association of Professional Engineers of Alberta, member of the Engineering Institute of Canada and member of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

Emil John Walli, who was initiated at this meeting, was a native of Sudbury, Ontario, his parents having emigrated to Canada from Finland. He graduated in Mining Engineering from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, and at the time of the ceremony was Manager of the Eldorado Gold Mines Limited, Port Radium, Great Bear Lake. The Eldorado Gold Mines Ltd. mined silver and pitchblende from which radium, uranium and other derivatives were produced at their Port Hope, Ontario, Refinery. He

resigned from that position in 1939 and became Manager of the Macalder Mines Ltd., Kisumu, Kenya Colony, British East Africa.

The aeroplane used to transport the party from Edmonton to Coppermine was a Noordyne Norseman monoplane, on pontoons, seating eight passengers and two crew, powered by a single 550 h.p. Pratt & Whitney H Wasp gasoline, 9 cylinder, radial air cooled motor with fixed pitch, two blade, aluminum alloy propeller. The co-pilot was Rudolph Heuss. The aircraft speed on floats cruised approximately 125 miles per hour with approximate payload of 1,600 lb. with full tanks. It was 2-way radio equipped. This was the standard commercial type used in 1938.

With this document there was deposited in the tube inside the monument a copy of the front page of the Edmonton *Journal*, a copy of the notice of Ivanhoe Lodge authorizing the meeting, upon which the signatures of most of the members were inscribed, and a copy of the Minutes of the meeting.



#### MASONS SPONSORED FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL IN PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

Freemasonry, ever espousing the cause of education, took the initiative in establishing the first school in Pretoria, South Africa. Five members of Aurora Masonic Lodge constituted themselves a committee to establish a school for the education of girls. Erected by the Government, the foundation stone of the school building was laid on April 23, 1878.

Children formed a procession at the Reformed Church in that city and marched to the school site, carrying a banner inscribed with the words: "That which has a beginning is never small."

Strange but appropriate, the Dutch, American, English and Transvaal Republic flags waved over the foundation of this public school building while the cornerstone was being laid.



#### MASONIC AFFILIATIONS OF REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

Both Wendell Lewis Willkie and Senator Charles Linza McNary, Republican nominees for President and Vice-President, are Masons. Mr. Willkie was made a Master Mason in Quincy Lodge No. 230, Elwood, Ind., on September 9, 1913, and demitted in 1920, becoming a charter member of Coventry Lodge No. 665, Akron, Ohio. He is an Episcopalian.

Senator McNary is a Baptist, an Odd Fellow, an Elk, and a member of Al Kader Shrine Temple, Portland, Ore. He has been U.S. Senator from that state since 1917.