



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

THE CORNER STONE

DON'T reach for your wallet! This is no dissertation on donations. Ah-h-h! Signifying relief.

We would discourse for a spell on the corner stone as representing preparation. The result may seem liverish. It is written with a purpose.

If you are an intelligent reader of the newspapers, you will have gathered that, amid the burden of present grief, the Government of our country finds time to attempt a forecast of the future and speculate on preparation for the brave new world to come.

Now speculation is our business, so it seems not at all off key to suggest that we too should try to estimate what is ahead, and attempt to lay the odd plank in a platform of preparation. There is, we suggest, ample room for speculation.

Those of us within the Mystic Circle in the days following the affair of 1914-18 must remember the extraordinary rush to join us here by men who had seen and heard something of contact with our brethren over there.

Comrades in the affair will still tell you that they came to Freemasonry seeking substitute for the lost fraternity of fire. It remains an open question whether they found it.

Here, then, are two ideas we may ponder now. They can be stated as simple questions:

- (a) Can we match our Western Freemasonry to that of our Brethren overseas?
- (b) Can we offer a peaceful association among men with anything like the emotional appeal and attractive comradeship of arms?

We think we can, but we are frank in saying there is reasonable doubt whether we do. That, of course, must be a matter of opinion. Knowing full well that difference of opinion makes horse races interesting, we offer ours, but it must be accepted as opinion, and in no sense dogma.

It is altogether likely that a large communion of our Brethren will promptly label our suggestions another toot from the horn of disturbing danger, another grunt from a graceless gabster who would turn the Order upside down overnight. We know we are no magician, but do confess to a modicum of amusement at being thus flattered.

It is possible, though, that some of the Young Men may think the gabster really may have something on the ball, and this year or next year, the Elder Statesmen being just that much older, may just as well speculate on the possibility.

Answering our own questions, in spite of the adage that comparisons are odious, we mildly opine:

- (a) That in social contact and service, our levels are not as high as those of our Brethren overseas.
- (b) That the fraternal associations we offer men who have been tried in the fiery furnace is skin deep by comparison.

It seems to us there is little need for even you, my dear Elder Brother, to wax hot under the collar as read these apparently facetious remarks. Nor is there any use dismissing the implications suggested by sententiously quoting ritual, as was done when a gracious Committee reported on our address as Grand Master, 'way back on the eve of the Great Depression.

Annual Proceedings of many a Jurisdiction suggest that the Order creaks at the joints more audibly every year. It is no crime to suggest that perhaps we should think about looking for an oilcan.

We believe the need is grave, for it must be apparent that if the dictators win, which God forbid, there will be no Freemasonry, and, in the upsurge of social reform in a victorious and revitalized Democracy, the archaic can be dispensed with.

Now is the time to ponder the issue. Are we great enough to speculate and plan?

A.M.M.

MASONRY IN THE FAR EAST

WAR in the Far East has focused the attention of United States Masons on the Fraternity in Japan, China, the Philippines, Hawaii, and the Dutch East Indies. Recent reports from these distant points are not available, and there is no way of knowing the loss of life among Masons and the loss of property by Lodges during the treacherous Japanese raids on Honolulu and Manila.

The Craft was active and strong in both Hawaii and the Philippines, and only recently Philippine Masons offered their services to Lieut. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, 32°, K.C.C.H. Philippine Masons immediately took their places among those ministering to the wounded and aiding citizens to reach safety.

Masonry played an important part in bringing freedom to the Islands. Foremost among the Philippine Patriots was Dr. Jose Rizal, an early Mason who died at the hands of a Spanish firing squad before the Islands were freed from the Spanish yoke. His writings were responsible for the Philippine revolution that flared after his death, and he was one of the men responsible for bringing the Craft to the Islands.

The first regular Lodge was established 1891, largely through the efforts of Marcelo Hilario del Pilar, 33°, who is often referred to as the Father of Philippine Masonry. Gen. Antonio Luna, considered by many the ablest general of the Philippine Republic before his death in 1899, was also a Mason and placed Craft members in key positions on his staff.

The history of Masonry in Hawaii dates back one hundred years, though the first record of the establishment of a regular Lodge was April 1842. Extensive plans were under way for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Craft in Hawaii, but it is probable that the war will curtail or cause the abandonment of such plans. Various Masonic Bodies in Hawaii have often been hosts to Masons of the United States Fleet.

The Supreme Council, 33°, A. & A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., is particularly interested in the Craft throughout the Far East as the Scottish Rite Bodies of Hawaii, the Philippines, China and Japan operate under its jurisdiction. The Supreme Council has actively aided China in its fight against Japanese aggression, the Masons of this Jurisdiction sending nine ambulances to China earlier this year. The Supreme Council has also donated cash to aid in the Chinese cause.

Masonic Lodges in China operated under the United Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodges of the Philippines, Massachusetts, Scotland and Ireland. As Japanese infiltration gained strength, the difficulties of these Lodges increased. It is assumed that all Masonic activity in the areas dominated by Japan has ceased.

The position of the Craft in Japan has been dubious for a number of years. The Japanese Government tolerated foreign Lodges on condition that no Jap-

anese nationals would be accepted for membership and that no public display of Masonry be made. An exception to the latter agreement was made only once when George W. Guthrie, United States Ambassador to Japan, was buried with a Masonic funeral service, with Japanese permission.

In 1936, the Japanese Government became officially alarmed at what it called the "mysterious world organization" known as Freemasonry and secretly investigated the Craft. Blue Lodges in Japan operated under the Jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Scotland, while the only Scottish Rite Bodies operated under the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Council, 33°, A. & A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. As far as can be ascertained, practically all Scottish Rite Masons in Japan left that country before hostilities commenced.

The oldest Masonic Lodge in The Netherlands East Indies was established in 1837, and its centennial was celebrated four years ago in Batavia. Three Batavia Lodges operated under The Netherlands Constitution, while another Lodge, established in 1921, was under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. There are some twenty other Dutch Lodges in the archipelago from Sumatra to Celebes. Schools, orphanages and other welfare work are conducted by these Lodges.

Masonry was naturally suppressed in The Netherlands when it was occupied by the Germans in the spring of 1940. Since that time it has been learned that Maj.-Gen. Herman van Tongeren, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands and Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of that country, died in a concentration camp. Other Dutch Masons were killed or imprisoned.

Freemasonry came to Guam, reported captured by Japan, in 1918, when a dispensation was granted by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

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MANY POLISH MASONS SAFE

Recent information from a reliable source reveals that, as late as Christmas, 1941, all the Masons who were met by Col. John H. Cowles, 33°, Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33°, A. & A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., on a trip to Poland several years ago, are safe. Little is known, however, about where they are now located and what they are doing.

A number of Polish Masons have been able to escape to England. They meet from time to time, thus keeping alive the spirit of the Polish Craft. Czechoslovakian Masons are also meeting in England and other foreign lands wherever it is possible.

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Had we cut through the conventions to get as close as we could to reality, we might at least have been better prepared for our present plight.

GIFTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

By BRO. L. J. HUMPHREY
Secretary, Nanaimo Lodge No. 110, G.R.B.C.

THE affirmation that the Great Architect would not have endowed the creatures of his divine providence with worthy inclinations did He not provide opportunities for their development, leads one to a realisation that we of the Masonic family are singularly blessed both with gifts and the means of their expression. Indeed, these days of war and threat bring home to us all the vastness of our opportunities to do good, and by that very fact focus our attention on our inclination—our gift—to do that good.

Consider for a moment the field of social service both within our ranks and in the vaster fraternity about us, the brotherhood of the common man united in a common cause against a common enemy. Do you, my Brother, find, by the peculiarities of your particular inclinations, that you are fitted to serve in this field? You are a good mixer, affable, generous, tolerant, pride yourself on being "up to the minute"? Here is a chance to be up to the opportunity, for this war will provide a great need of social services of all kinds—from the simple act of kindness on the run, so to speak, to the organized campaign requiring the direction of specialists in its various branches.

Regard, also, the field of the mind. Here, where alert intelligences delight in opportunity for expression, is a veritable paradise of opportunity. Possess you these gifts, Brother? Then you may use them in administrative, executive capacities incidental to all well-planned work. Make no mistake, the All-seeing Eye will guide you by its beneficent beam to avenues demanding your fullest attention and consequent development.

Parallel blessings await you also in deeper study of our ritual, a keener search for its gems, a livelier appreciation of the soundness of its precepts. Speak, write, urge them upon your brethren. Spread them wide within the membership and in your daily life by action—that final test by which we are, and should, be judged.

Finally, let us consider the deep beauties of the spirit, the very pulse of all our Lodges and our hearts. Freemasons these days, by a very natural law, will be driven deep within their souls, the seat of their virtues, the source of their gifts and of their strength to use them. Oh, may our Fraternity see in present strife the opportunity to develop its soul. May it look up to the letter G with an awakened consciousness of its real, its final and fundamental significance.

For it is in the soul that the Great Architect works His wonders. Here He engraves the square and compass. Here are His great lights.

Let us use all our opportunities to keep them burning.

*If you are clever, Brother mine,
Alert with mental zest,
In service of our Craft you shine
If you will give your best.*

*If you are kindly, sweet of heart,
Tender in charity,
Then you may play a priv'ledged part
In our Fraternity.*

*If you are strong in depth of soul
To keep you free from doubt,
The Architect will make you whole
In service quiet, devout.*

*For in the Freemasonic cause
Is room for talents all—
Then use yours, Brother, do not pause
Nor disregard the call.*

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DUKE OF CONNAUGHT DIES

His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, last surviving son of Queen Victoria, died at Bagshot Park, Surrey, England, on January 16th, 1942, at 91 years of age. He had been active in Masonry for more than sixty-five years, having been Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England from 1901 to 1939, when he resigned. At the time of his death, he was the oldest officer of the United Grand Lodge.

The Duke of Connaught received his first degree in Masonry in 1874. He became Provincial Grand Master for Sussex in 1886 and District Grand Master for Bombay in 1887, holding the two offices until 1901, when he became Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge.

At the time of his retirement from Masonic activities, in 1939, he was First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of England (since 1901), Grand Master of the Grand Mark Lodge (since 1901), Grand Master of Great Priory, Knights Templar of England (since 1907), Grand Patron and Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Supreme Council, 33°, for England and Wales, and President of the three Masonic Benevolent Institutions of England. He originated the Masonic Million Memorial Fund, which was raised to build the Masonic Peace Memorial in London, the home of the United Grand Lodge; was an Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and was Great Prior of Knights Templar in Ireland in 1878.

The Duke of Connaught was the brother of Edward VII, the uncle of George V, and the great-uncle of Edward VIII and George VI, the present ruler of England. His sister, H.R.H. Princess Beatrice, is the only surviving child of Queen Victoria.

A son, Prince Arthur of Connaught, died in 1938. When Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, the Duke of Connaught had installed his son as Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire in 1924.

Winston Churchill, wartime Prime Minister of England, paid tribute to the Duke of Connaught on the floor of the House of Commons a few days after his death.

CHURCHILL A MASON

Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who guides the war effort of the British people, is a member of the Craft, information published in a recent English book reveals. In "A Picture of Life," containing the reminiscences of Lord Mersey, the author recalls how he and the Prime Minister talked together as they awaited the time for their initiation into Freemasonry some forty years ago.



ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION BOYS PLAY IMPORTANT PARTS IN WAR

In preparing for the three Masonic festivals, the instruments through which the United Grand Lodge of England raises funds to support its Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys, Girls, and Old People, authorities reported that at least 605 boys raised in the Masonic Institution are now in the service fighting Hitler.

Twenty have already paid the supreme sacrifice, five are listed as missing, eight are known to be prisoners of war and six others have been wounded. Three have been awarded the D.F.C., one the D. F. Medal, and one the Medal of the British Empire.

Twenty-six more are carrying out the British tradition in the Merchant Service, where they are constantly exposed to Nazi submarine and bomber attack.

This impressive record, more than any words, speaks for the success of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. Through the voluntary contributions of British Masons, these boys were raised in patriotic surroundings that taught them the value of freedom.



FRENCH CHURCH DEDICATED WITH MASONIC CEREMONIES

M. W. William Mosely Brown, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, sends the Editor a program of ceremonies dedicating the sixth home of the French Protestant Church of the Holy Spirit, in New York City, of which the Rev. and Bro. J. A. F. Maynard, Chaplain of L'Union Francaise Lodge, No. 17, X Manhattan, is Rector. "Doctor Maynard," says M. W. Bro. Brown, "is an enthusiastic Mason and it was largely through his efforts, as well as those of R. W. Charles Bickard, Past District Deputy, and Bro. Maurice Franck, both of L'Union Francaise, and others, that the Masonic service of dedication was arranged. Dr. Maynard tells me that, so far as he and the other Brethren connected with the Church know, this is the first time in history that a French Church of any kind has been dedicated with Masonic ceremonies. Dr. Maynard took our English ritual of consecration and cornerstone-laying and prepared the special French ritual used for the occasion."

Masonic Outlook N.Y., Jan. 1942



The business of the propagandist is to sell us a pup knowing it will grow to dog us into every narrowness, prejudice and popular absurdity.

GRATEFUL THANKS

The following acknowledgment has been received from the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, by the General Secretary of our Masonic War Distress Fund:

London, January 13th, 1942

Dear Sir and R. W. Brother:

I have received your letter of the 16th December, informing me of the contribution of One Thousand Pounds towards our War Relief Fund from your Grand Master and the members of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. A cheque for this amount was received through the Bank which I acknowledged by cable on the 18th December, but I delayed writing until I received your original letter, in case you had any special instructions regarding this gift.

I find difficulty in expressing to you and the Brethren of Alberta our appreciation of the generous way in which you have helped us to shoulder our difficulties. I am thankful to say that the urgent need for assistance has not been so insistent during the last month or two of quieter nights, but we now have many sad cases brought to our notice of people who have been making strenuous efforts to re-establish themselves without asking for assistance, and a little timely help will help to revive their courage and belief in the future.

Will you kindly accept on behalf of Grand Lodge and all those who have benefitted by your kindness, our sincere and grateful thanks.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

(Signed) SYDNEY A. WHITE,
Grand Secretary.

M.W. Bro. George Moore, P.G.M.,
Masonic Temple,
Calgary, Alberta.



CONGRATULATIONS

Hearty congratulations to Kitchener Lodge No. 95, Rimbey. Their resident fourteen members have contributed the sum of \$87.00. This is real co-operation with the Grand Master's appeal. Many thanks, Kitchener Lodge!



GRAND MASTER HOME AGAIN

The Craft will be glad to know that the M.W. the Grand Master has safely returned to Alberta, after an extended business trip to Eastern Canada and the United States. He is more than pleased to be back at his desk again, attending to the affairs of Grand Lodge with his accustomed diligence and careful attention and it is certain he will be warmly greeted by the brethren everywhere.