



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

## John Henry William Shore Kemmis

1867 - 1942

As the dawn of the morning of October 13th came to his beloved foothills, the spirit of John Kemmis began its journey to the undiscover'd country from whose bourn no traveller returns, and his Brethren mourn the passing of a great gentleman.

Of Irish and Empire Loyalist stock, John Kemmis was born in Ooti Ootacamund, Madras Presidency, India, and came to Canada as a youth of sixteen to begin agricultural studies at Guelph Agricultural College.

When the Riel Rebellion broke out he joined the Moose Mountain Scouts and served through the months of the Rebellion, but without seeing action.

His soldiering over, he turned again to agricultural pursuits and homesteaded in the North Fork area of Pincher Creek, where with the passing years he became an influential rancher and a prominent member of the Cowley and Pincher Creek community.

He was elected member for Pincher Creek in the Alberta Legislature in 1910 and represented the constituency as a Conservative until 1920.

His Masonic career is a long and interesting one, and filled with the service to his Brethren which characterized his every act.

He was made a Mason in Spitzie Lodge No. 6 at Pincher Creek in 1890, and fifty years later, still a member of the same Lodge, was presented with the Fifty Year Jewel by a delegation from Spitzie which travelled all the way to Calgary to make the presentation. Among many honors, probably none pleased John Kemmis more than this.

The purple of the Fraternity fell upon his honored shoulders in 1920 when he served as Grand Master. He was a Past Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch and an Honorary Inspector-General 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

In 1928 he was elected Grand Secretary, which post he faithfully filled until his death.

He leaves a widow, two married daughters and one granddaughter.

In the passing of John Kemmis we lose a pioneer of the West and a gentleman of the old school. Conservative in opinion, he was never opposed to sane progress, and his sound knowledge of Masonic law and usage, coupled to his quiet and dignified personality, smoothed many an incipient revolt.

To the Grand Masters he served he was a tower of strength and a faithful friend. The affairs of the Grand Lodge of Alberta were to him a passion and a dream, and even in failing health, he drove himself to serve as best he knew.

Known over the length and breadth of the Jurisdiction, he was beloved and respected by every man who met him, and his passing leaves a break in our ranks which can never be wholly filled.

The sympathy of the Fraternity near and far is offered to his sorrowing family in reverent tribute to the memory of a great soul.

A.M.M.

## THE VIRTUE OF HOSPITALITY

### A Reminiscence

**R**ECEIPT of the annual notice listing the District Meetings and an occasional Lodge Notice inviting us to partake of the pleasures of an official visit of the District Deputy Grand Master have set us off in reminiscent vein this month, inviting our readers hither and yon to remember the virtues of Masonic hospitality.

In the cities most men wearing the purple of the fraternity are well known and can rest assured that when they do pay a visit they will be received in the proper fraternal spirit. This is not always the case and the moral of our tale is that the genuine inner spirit of a Lodge shows no more clearly than in its contacts with visiting brethren.

Here are a few incidents from our experience. We are sure they can be matched by other Grand Lodge officers.

A number of years ago when we had been graced with the insignia of Grand Junior Warden we took a notion to pay a visit to a certain Calgary Lodge. When we arrived, the members were moving into the Lodge room. Donning our regimentals we signed the register and waited for an invitation to enter. None came, while a dozen men filed past us without even saying "good evening". The Tyler was too busy chatting with the members he knew, so, now really interested in what might happen, we stood aside quietly and waited.

Presently the door of the Lodge Room was closed and the opening ceremony began. A few belated brethren arrived and were admitted. Still we were ignored. We finished our cigarette and, mildly annoyed, began to remove our war paint when the Tyler came to life.

"Did you wish to visit?"

"No thanks", we smiled, "not now," and walked out. His start when he looked at the Lodge Register indicated he might have learnt a minor lesson in Lodge hospitality.

In 1928 we received a plaintive note from a certain small Lodge in the country seeking the favor of a visit from the Grand Master in office. We went to some trouble to accept that invitation, even to the extent of arranging to stop a trans-continental train at a non-stop station so we could arrive at the proper time!

The Tyler gave us that wierd look which suggests he is thinking we have ideas of stealing the brass cuspidor but knows enough to report our presence when he sees the insignia of office. A delegation duly appeared but, is its duty to escort the Grand Master to the East? Not on your life! The delegation solemnly proceeded to examine the Grand Master in full regalia as to his qualification to be admitted to a Masonic Lodge including his standing as regards payment of dues! This Grand Master smilingly

submitted, was duly admitted and graciously permitted to instal the officers of the Lodge. But we still chuckle and wonder if . . . Perhaps the Grand Master shouldn't travel alone!

It is no joke for a District Deputy who has made a long and, perhaps, cold drive to find when he reaches the local hotel that no room has been reserved for him, and that some other organization in session has grabbed all the accommodation. Yet this happened to us once, and to add insult to injury it was raining in torrents. The hotel clerk sensing the possible repercussions of the predicament telephoned one man he knew to be a Mason. After a lapse of about an hour and a half this individual appeared and things began to happen. We were accommodated graciously at the home of one of the brethren, but not before we had cooled our heels for two hours in a crowded hotel. We must confess our feeling toward that Lodge was none too friendly.

Needless to say, this is but one side of the picture. Our experiences for the most part have been pleasant and most enjoyable and in retrospect, the incidents recited may have occurred by reason of thoughtlessness or unnecessary adherence to form and ceremony.

Lodges receiving Grand Lodge officers should make it their business to see that the visitor is properly accommodated, that he is greeted at once by a member detailed for the purpose, and that he is given full information *before* the meeting as to what will be expected of him. It is no pleasant experience to be called on without notice to make a presentation to a Brother one has never seen, and without any instruction as to the nature of his special service. Neither is it comfortable to be informed, as we have been, ten minutes before the end of an anniversary Lodge meeting that the audience at the supper table would include the ladies, and we had prepared a strictly Masonic address.

To Masters, Wardens and Secretaries then we suggest the simple advice that (a) you are sure your guest understands fully what will be required of him and, (b) you make certain reasonable arrangement has been made for his personal comfort *before* he arrives.

These things seem so simple as to require no mention, but we have seen them omitted on a number of occasions and the result is embarrassing to say the least.

Official visits are now the order of the day. Masonic hospitality implies courteous and kindly reception of the distinguished visitor. If you have no Committee now empowered to see to the comfort and reception of visitors, you had better prod the Junior Warden. This is his business and his delegating the job to a committee who know the value of hospitality without ostentation will find a congenial job for two or three brethren ready and willing to serve. And most visitors will meet you halfway!

A.M.M.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

### Miss Hildegard Parrott Resigns

The genial and highly efficient secretary in our Grand Lodge offices laid down her pen for the last time at the end of September and left to take unto herself a husband, in far away New York City.

She served two Grand Secretaries faithfully and well, and except for the obvious fact that she was not a Mason, probably knew more about the business affairs of Grand Lodge than any living person.

Skilled in long study of the idiosyncrasies of Masonic man, she was able to give information and advice which was highly acceptable and valuable to the thousands of Brethren who came to her office during the decade and a half of her service.

The Brethren of Alberta extend to Miss Parrott and her husband their most cordial good wishes for a long and happy married life.



### Edmonton No. 7 Celebrates Jubilee

On October 20th Edmonton Lodge No. 7 celebrated its Golden Jubilee of Fifty Years of Masonic Service in the Capital City. A full report will appear in the December issue.



### The Fellowship of Freemasonry

"Freemasonry is a fellowship of kindred minds—minds which essentially think alike, cherish the same ideals, hold to the same aspirations. What then is the measure of the strength of our faith? We cannot say until we put it to the test. The response which we make will evidence the strength of our faith in Freemasonry. If our professions are more than lip service, if they evidence a faith which is a part of our very being, we shall do our utmost in its support. We cannot be indifferent in our attitudes in the face of attack. The expression has been used that "enthusiasm is faith in action." Enthusiasm is the force which translates a sound faith into deeds. The moment calls for labor, hard labor, and I summon you Brethren of the Grand Lodge, leaders in the Craft, to stand shoulder to shoulder, facing our responsibilities, assuming our obligations in a demonstration of a spirit of purpose and unity, which shall inspire the Brethren, over whom we are called to preside, to a united front in the service of God and of our fellowmen. To this end, may God give us power."

(Excerpt from Grand Master's Address, delivered by M. W. Bro. Henry C. Turner, Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., of the State of New York, May 6, 1941.)



### A Memory

A past District Deputy Grand Master browsing through the Proceedings of our Grand Lodge came across this gem from the pen of our late Past Grand Master V. H. Macaulay and suggested we republish it for the benefit of those who have come to know the beauties of Banff in the intervening years. The

occasion was the laying of the cornerstone of the Masonic Temple built by Cascade Lodge No. 5 at Banff in 1924.

"The impressive ceremony was carried out on October 23rd at 4.00 o'clock p.m., at the site of the building, amid a setting so glorious that even the ravages of time shall never efface from our memories. We stood in the open air in the midst of God's great amphitheatre, towering pines and firs on every hand, as tapers pointing to heaven, while nature in all the splendor of mid-autumn, looked down from the lofty heights of mighty Cascade, Sulphur and Rundle mountains, with each draped as for the occasion in their upper reaches, with a filmy lace-like tracery of snow, white and pure as angels' wings. Mighty galleons of the sky with all sails set, raced across the blue vault from peak to peak, wafted onward by a delightful chinook. The whole splendid scene was flooded with the glorious sunlight of late afternoon, while simultaneously with the last words of the final prayer and benediction, the great lamp of heaven sank to rest behind the western peaks, already purple with the mists of hastening darkness."



### The War Distress Fund

One Lodge has taken T me by the forelock in the current campaign and it is hoped will serve as a beacon and a banner to others to do their Masonic share in the service of the stricken.

Kenilworth Lodge No. 29 of Red Deer has already remitted three hundred dollars which is ten percent more than their quota, and they have promised more.

What will your Lodge say to this?



### And After the War

Another objective to which we might give thought and attention is "The Rehabilitation of our Soldiery". This is a problem, not to be deferred till after the war for consideration, but now because large numbers are returning now and must be placed in civilian life.

This is nothing new. It has been a problem after every war from the days of Julius Caesar down to the present.

Would it be too much to expect from our individual Lodges every support to help and assist those Members when they return? Assist them to find employment so that they may have no fear for the security and safety of themselves and their families. It will be a friendly gesture and may mean peace and happiness for them. The difficulties of those returned veterans of the last war are too fresh in our minds not to be appreciated.

Let us face the problem with a determination to do our part in solving it. On the other hand, shall we admit that we are unable to do it, and thereby acknowledge our inability to carry the torch of freedom and liberty—the symbol of democracy?

We have accepted the individual, social and national liberties that only a democracy has to offer. We have accepted them as a matter of right. Let us learn again that there is no privilege without

a duty, no authority without a corresponding obligation, no freedom without a responsibility, no real greatness without self-denial. If nothing else, let us be ready to apply the Square, the Plumb Rule and the Level in all matters of citizenship.

We have progressed industrially, scientifically, and intellectually. In things of the spirit we have not kept pace with them. As a result we are content with things of mediocre values—cheap plays—jazz music, ordinary literature and lower standards of thought and living.

In times such as this, when influences would separate and divide men, the mortar of fellowship is needed.

(Excerpt from Report on the Condition of Masonry, presented by R. W. Bro. W. C. N. Marriott, Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., in the Province of Ontario, July 16, 1941.)

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**The Mason's Task**

"The task then of Masonic Lodges in these times is a simple one, for the task of a Lodge is nothing more than the task of the individual Mason; that task is to continue to be loyal to the philosophy of government and the laws of the country in which we reside, even though we may rightfully disagree with certain techniques and work for what we individually feel to be the welfare of mankind. It means to continue such practices in our relationships with men as will keep this a united nation. It means the insistence upon the rights of others in order that there may be rights for all. It means continuing to demand that the freedom of every man shall be respected in order that there may be freedom for all, and above all it means in these times that every Mason should, with great intelligence and deliberation, exercise that steady influence in his own circle of friends, which is so essential if we are to avoid chaotic thinking and precipitous action."

(Excerpt from the Grand Master's Annual Message, delivered by M. W. Lloyd E. Wilson, Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons, California, October 14, 1941.)

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**Ancient Indian Mason**

A painting of an Indian Mason, believed to be one of the first, hangs among the valuable paintings in the Manoir Richelieu at Murray Bay, Quebec, Canada.

C. E. Neilan, a Detroit policeman, who is active in Shrine work, called attention to the painting while on a cruise with Moslem Temple members. His research work while at the Manoir disclosed that one of the first Indians to be made a Mason was Thayendanega, later known as Joseph Brant, a Mohawk chief born in 1742 on the banks of the Ohio River. The Indian name Thayendanega means "two sticks of wood bound together."

The portrait at the Manoir was painted by G. Romney (1734-1802) and was posed for by the Mohawk in 1776, in London.

**By Way of Contrast**

Some men wouldn't get to lodge if you furnished them with a motor car.

Others would walk miles to get there

Some would like you to pay their dues.

Others would go down in their pockets to pay yours, if necessary.

Some men gain their experience in fraternalism at the bedside of the sick.

Others only gain it on the sick bed.

Some men remember the orphan child.

Others forget them, and leave them by the way-side.

Some men can install the officers or be installed into any office, and fill it with credit.

Others cannot work they way into the lodge.

Some men sit on the sidelines and let everybody know that the brother giving a charge has just made an error.

The same fellow puts on a robe and makes ten mistakes where the other brother made only one.

Some smile, some don't; some build, some tear down. Which do you prefer? Which are you?

—Texas Grand Lodge Bulletin.

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**The Lights**

The lights that by our altar burn  
Are active, live and free,  
No mere reflection cold and stern  
Of our Freemasonry.

So if we, too, would shine about  
The altar of our day,  
We must be active, verile, stout  
In service, just as they.

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

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The interpretation of brotherly love has probably caused more wars than even competition for trade.

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Knowledge without charity and charity without knowledge are equally dangerous.

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It is easier to grab an opinion than to think the thing through.

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Popularity is no proof of service.

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Too often the test of a good man is his ability to polish apples for those in power for the time being.

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When a man insists he has found truth, the chances are he has merely become narrow-minded.

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Genuine study of Freemasonry's past should engender criticism of her present and her future.