



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

"FROM EACH HIS TALENT"

THE writer is engaged in the operation of a public utility in which the organization is of a type termed "Functional", which term reduced to everyday language simply means that each man is more or less a specialist in his own part of the complete job. Over all is the General Manager who is presumed to know enough about all the "functions" to tie the ends together into a complete pattern of public service.

We have often compared this intricate yet simple arrangement to the operation of Freemasonry. From a loose and general point of view the Lodges, each minding its own local business, may be considered the "functions" and Grand Lodge, drawing the strings together, the "General Manager".

But there is more to it than this. Even in the individual Lodge there are functions which can be specialized with decidedly beneficial results and yet we find, as a rule, small groups of willing horses trying to do everything, or as alternative, Worshipful Masters, believing it their bounden duty as titular head, trying to carry the whole load.

The "functions" of a Masonic Lodge in respect of its effort, are fairly clearly defined. Apart from the "business" function usually ably taken care of by properly elected Treasurers and Secretaries, these functions may be listed as Ritual, Benevolent, Educational and Social. Any one of these functions can be broken down, if need be, into sub-functions, but the principle is the same.

We have frequently said that one of the best ways of keeping the Craftsman interested and active is to find him a job, and here is how the activities of the Lodge can be spread over as many members as possible to the everlasting betterment of the Lodge and of its Brethren.

In every Lodge there are members who like ritual and who have made a study of it. In a recent editorial we suggested that a good ritualist was something more than a phonograph record. He should not only know whereof he spoke but should have a firm background of the nuances of English speech and, if possible, some training in elocution. This suggests that the Ritual should be left to such specialists. In a large Lodge this can be broken down further, and those ritualists who love the longer

lectures and have the teacher instinct can be pressed into regular service to lecture to their Brethren. It is true that certain parts of the Ritual must be taught by a Worshipful Master, but it does not follow that this must be the sitting Master. He is a wise Worshipful Master who knows his own limitations in specialized work and who farms out all he can to those he knows know how better than the rest.

Active Benevolence requires its own peculiar executive talent. The handling of Lodge benevolent funds is almost a sacred duty and the Committee in charge must have full measure of the milk of human kindness, but an equally human and wary eye for the too frequent misinformed petitioner who thinks Masonic Benevolence some sort of peculiar insurance fund to a share of which some right is established by the payment of the annual pittance known as "Dues". Here is room for talent in a highly specialized function. Again, the function, where need be, can be broken down into sick visiting, hospital attendance, and association with the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund.

Masonic Education, as we have commented before, seems to be a sadly neglected function in most Lodges. It is all very well for the old timers to resent the rattling among dry bones, but what of the latest initiate who knows nothing of our history, tradition and philosophy. Here is a job not only for enthusiasts, but for those who can clothe the past in the robes of modern interest, and by so doing, point to the changes which will come in the future as surely as the day dawns. Here knowledge is indeed power and most Lodges of any size have men with the requisite knowledge and willing to pass it on to their fellows when given the opportunity and the vitally necessary encouragement.

Socially the Lodge is supposed to be in the hands of the Junior Warden. True, he has his stewards, but the social activities of an average Lodge are many and varied. Among the membership are talents in entertainment which require constant cultivation. A Brother who makes a specialty of digging up the talents of his Brethren and acting as impressario in presenting them to his Lodge on suitable occasion should be a valuable Brother

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HASTY JUDGMENT

Many of the tragedies of life are due to hasty judgment and unconsidered criticism. Men are prone to jump at conclusions, judging from an incomplete and imperfect knowledge of the facts and supplying their own version of the motives which impelled another to a certain action.

The bad man who is "quick on the trigger" makes mistakes which cannot be corrected.

The man who forms and expresses hasty opinions, who condemns without hearing and perhaps without evidence, is liable to murder a reputation and inflict an irreparable injury.

Suspicion is like fire, quickly kindled and hard to control. Frequently it is harder to quench, always it leaves stains and scars that last forever.

Masons, of all men, should be deliberate in judgment, candid in consideration, charitable in construction, moderate in condemnation.

If you feel moved to criticize a Brother, suppose you see him first. Talk over the matter in question and discover his point of view. Probably it is a different angle from that which presented itself to you. Perhaps, after all, it is the right angle and you may be spared the ignominy of doing him an injustice. Perhaps he can tell you things you did not know. On the other hand, perhaps you can enlighten him and lead him to see the error of his way.

How much better to convince and reform than to convict and destroy.

At any rate, it is a satisfaction to be sure you are right before you go ahead.—*National Mason.*

MASONRY HAS WORK TO DO

A war that was to end war. Why did it not do so? We may blame a treaty, but the question remains—where is the real blame? And the answer is that not even the greatest tragedy of history could wipe out the passions, hatreds, fears and prejudices of centuries. Old gray fears, dark grim hatreds, still rule the minds of men.

Now we are at war again. If anything is clear it is clear that war cannot be ended by war. If war is to be abolished it must come as the fruit of moral, spiritual and social upbuilding in time of peace. Following the last Armistice, peace did not come. True there was a semblance of peace, but it could not come overnight by any sudden change in the natures of men.

Peace will not come until it comes as a growth which must be tended by every thought, word and act of those who do not want to kill their fellow men. Science killed the great plagues. They lie like dead snakes by the side of the human road. Only religion can kill war. A great warring nation today, first throughout the churches, throughout fraternities, closed all organizations which taught that men are brothers.

Now we ask God to help us to have peace again; what are we going to do about it, what are we doing about it? There is not one of us, however humble,

who cannot do his bit for permanent peace, and there is no ideal so well worth serving. War can be ended. To doubt it is to defy God and deny the moral sense of man. It can be ended by faith, by courage, by dauntless will, by hard work, by ceaseless devotion—not intermittent, but constant—to the ideal that men shall settle their affairs as beings made in the image of God, and not by the lacerating law of the jungle.

If our fraternity can help promote the idea of human brotherhood, and the faith that love can overcome hate, then we are remiss in our duty if we do not do it. What can Masonry do? It can at least get together and work together, and thus give an example of what fraternity is. It can try to win men from selfishness to service, and God blesses those who try.—*The Masonic News.*

THE GRAND MASTERS' CONFERENCE A Report by the Grand Master of Alberta

ONE of the most interesting experiences of the year was a visit to the Grand Masters' Conference held annually at Washington, D.C., on February 23 and 24. The Conference is a meeting place for the Grand Masters of the forty-nine United States grand jurisdictions and they were kind enough this year to extend an invitation to the Grand Masters of the Canadian Grand Lodges, which I was able to accept as I was in Eastern Canada at the time of the Conference. The only other Canadian present was R. W. Bro. E. G. Dixon, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario, who went out of his way on many occasions to see that I was well looked after and to whom I owe a debt of gratitude.

There are several other Masonic gatherings held at Washington at this time, the first in point of time being the annual meeting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. This meeting is held on the morning of George Washington's birthday, February 22, in the great Masonic Memorial on Shooter's Hill on the Virginia side of the river from Washington. The large auditorium in the Memorial is used for this gathering and the annual reports are given and the contributions of the various Grand Lodges to the building fund are handed in in person by their representatives. The Memorial itself is a magnificent conception still uncompleted and some building is done each year. Several million dollars have been spent to date and many thousands more will be required before it is completed.

During the last year two rooms have been completed, a blue lodge room and what is called the replica room. This latter room is an exact replica in size, window spacing, and ornamentation of the old lodge room in Alexandria, where George Washington presided as master of Alexandria Washington Lodge. The Washington relics which I had had the privilege of seeing in their old setting on a former visit, are now in vaults in the Memorial and are to be installed in this replica room. The blue lodge room was a lovely room ornamented in white with

beautiful white plaster work. A blue broadloom carpet and walnut furniture, both simple and dignified, completed the furnishings of this room.

One of the most interesting meetings of the session was held in this room when it was dedicated by M. W. Bro. W. R. Weisiger, Grand Master of Virginia, and his officers. The impressive ceremony was well carried and the address delivered by M. W. Bro. James H. Price, Past Grand Master of Virginia, was exceptionally good. It was one of the best Masonic addresses I have ever heard. There were twenty-one Grand Masters present and we were presented at the Altar to the assembly and each of us was seated in the East in George Washington's own chair which had been brought out for the occasion. The gavel was placed in our hands and for a brief moment we had the privilege of presiding over George Washington's own lodge seated in his own chair. As the only Canadian present I was asked to speak and had the opportunity of conveying to the several hundred brethren present greetings from the Grand Lodge of Alberta and my grateful thanks for all their kindness to me. It was a stimulating experience.

The Conference itself opened the following morning in the Willard Hotel and continued all that day and the following morning. It was the most representative gathering of its kind ever held, forty-seven of the forty-nine Grand Masters of the United States being present. One state, Texas, was represented by its Deputy Grand Master owing to the Grand Master being in the United States Army and one state, Mississippi, was represented by its Grand Secretary. The Grand Master of Mississippi is also the Republican governor of a Democratic state and his full attention was required at home. M. W. Bro. J. W. J. Stedman, Grand Master of Washington, was chairman and did an admirable job. M. W. Bro. Stedman was born in London, England. While most of the papers read at the conference applied more particularly to the jurisdictions to the south of us it was most informing to hear the different viewpoints expressed and to have such a splendid opportunity to meet and chat with so many of the men who are leading Masonry on this continent.

One of the dominant questions in the minds of our brethren in the United States is the rendering of some form of service to their men in the Armed Forces somewhat along the lines of the Auxiliary Services of the Canadian Armed Forces but operated and financed by Masons. The Masonic Service Association of which some of the Grand Lodges are members provides and operates huts of this kind and some of the jurisdictions like New York and California have established bureaus of their own for this service. Several of the United States jurisdictions have Lodges beyond the borders of Continental United States. Massachusetts operates Lodges in the Canal Zone, the Hawaiian Lodges belong to California and those in Alaska to Washington. The normal problems of operation at these distances are enormously increased through war pressures but the Grand Lodges concerned are all functioning well. The large size of some of the constituent Lodges

rather astonishes the uninformed Canadian. I chatted with the secretary of one of the largest Lodges in a certain state with about 2,600 members. They held about two meetings a week, he told me, for degree work and had several hundred degrees now waiting to be conferred.

At the Conference dinner Senator Burton of Ohio gave an excellent and informing address on the present and future position of the United States which was highly appreciated. There were five senators present at the dinner and Senator Tom Connolly, senior Senator from Texas, and chairman of the important Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also spoke. Senator Connolly reminds one of the late William Jennings Bryan. He is a bigger man than Bryan physically but he has a heavy shock of iron grey hair and is one of the rapidly diminishing band of old time political orators of which Bryan was such a brilliant example. At this dinner I had the pleasure of meeting and chatting with W. Bro. Martin H. Kinsinger, of Silver Spring, Maryland, who is our Grand Representative near the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

It was a great privilege to be able to attend this Conference and to hear and meet so many outstanding Masonic leaders.

F.P.G.

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A WHISPER FROM THE NORTH-EAST CORNER

'Twas the wish of my heart when I was a lad
That when I grew up I would be like my dad,
Hear men call me Brother, be entitled to wear
A bright golden ring with a compass and square.

How proud did I feel when the Master's degree
On that memorable night was conferred upon me;
Then again how I thrilled, my pride still increased
When all the good Brothers voted me to the East.

I sought to show honor to rank and gold braid,
By the flow of sweet oratory, my emotions were
swayed,
My heart thrilled with pride, for did I not belong?
Was I not a part of this great noble throng?

Then when illness o'ertook me and far, far from home
In a hospital bed I lay sick and alone,
Once I felt a warm handclasp, saw a smile brightly
shine,
As two kindly eyes shed their joy into mine.

'Twas a Brother, a Mason, who came to spread cheer
'Mong the sick and the suffering; 'Twas his role
through the year
To visit sick Brothers, bring them aid in their need,
Bring joy to sad hearts, do a daily good deed.

Then I thought how I'd thrilled, oft to glitter and
show,
Thought of this noble service 'mong the sick and the
low;
And I felt meek and humble, my pride was downcast
For I felt that I'd known the real Mason at last.

F. J. Cameron,
P.M. Lochearn Lodge No. 151.

CORRESPONDENCE

On Masonic Education

After three years all that I have is the spirit and a voluminous stock of phrases. I have yet to attend a Lodge where a rather abbreviated meeting could be made profitable by the introduction of a moderately short talk on the deeper meanings of some of our mysteries or snatches of Masonic history.

Thinking to improve my knowledge I have paid visits to various Masonic libraries and have been confronted with practically nothing but volume upon volume of "Proceedings". I am sure that if one were to read all of these "Proceedings" his Masonic knowledge would not be greatly improved. I visited the Public Library and found that the sum total of Masonic readings there was contained in one volume, the copy of which was not then available, and was most likely at that time in the hands of one in a similar plight to myself. I finally located a few books in a second-hand store, but having neither the price asked, nor a particular inclination to burden my necessarily portable effects with the volumes in stock, I have had to content myself with the odd glance at them, usually on the pretense of looking for something else. (The book shop man has to make a living.)

May I direct this suggestion to the Masters of all Lodges, large or small, rich or poor, city or country. On our regular nights let us have a short talk, perhaps fifteen minutes, as part of the evening business. Let it be given in the privacy of our Lodge room as part of the business. Let it be given as an original effort, not as a piece of memory work. Masonic History or a plain explanation of some parts of our ritual could provide subject matter in abundance. Perhaps even a youngster such as I could find a topic that would be of interest to all.

"SERIOUS",
Calgary.

On Tenure of Office

To a mason like myself who is not a heavy reader, but interested in masonry, your *Bulletins* are a great help in giving different thoughts for us to think over. Your last editorial "On Free Speech and Free Masonry" is a thought that I have had in my mind for a long time and think your presentation of the facts just what the order needs today. In fact, I have another idea and pass it on to you for what it is worth.

In Alberta there are only 10,734 Masons (Dec. 31, 1940) yet every year we elect a new Grand Master, who really never has a chance to rule the Craft as he is elected at one Grand Lodge Meeting and passed on at the next—Idea in mind: increase the time in office of the Grand Master to about five years at least instead of expecting to elect a Super-man every year out of a membership of 10,000. Same thing in most country Lodges—why try and find a new Master out of small memberships every year, present results as in my own case if you attend your Lodge regularly and get started towards the Chair it is just a matter of a few years and you are Master, while

history shows in Lodges there is one real Master against five or six that just get by (including myself).

Also the degree work of a Lodge is very interesting if done by several brothers instead of expecting the Master for that year to put on most of the work himself. Idea: keep more Past Masters and Brothers on the side in harness and leave the Master more time for the business of his Lodge.

Yours fraternally,
J. L. Ancock,
W.M. Cornerstone No. 19.

Answer to Inquiry

Q.—The source of the hymn "Soon as the evening shades prevail . . . etc." In the F.C. Degree (York Work)?

A.—These lines occur in Addison's famous hymn "The spacious firmament on high" which appeared as an Ode in No. 465 of "The Spectator", August 23, 1712.

GRAND MASTERS OF ENGLAND

The late Duke of Kent, who was Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England at the time of his tragic death, had held that office only a little over three years. This is the shortest tenure of this office on record. The longest such record is that of the Duke of Connaught who remained as leader for 38 years (1901-1939).

The next longest tenure of office as Grand Master in England is that of the Duke of Sussex, which lasted 30 years (1813-43), followed in length by that of the late Prince of Wales who became King Edward VII (27 years) and that of the second Earl of Zetland (26 years). The Earl de Grey and Ripon ruled four years. There have been only these six Grand Masters of the United Grand Lodge of England in the course of 130 years, four of them having been Royal Princes whose combined rule of the Grand Lodge covered nearly 100 years.

The present Grand Master, the Earl of Harewood, is the seventh head of the Craft in England and Wales and the third leader not a Royal Prince. Yorkshire is proud to claim him and also one of the other Grand Masters not of royalty, the Earl of Zetland.

FROM EACH HIS TALENT

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indeed. The active Junior Warden can gather socially minded Brethren about him to devise programmes a long way ahead and thereby increase and keep attendance and make his Lodge his debtor.

Finally, the Worshipful Master must keep an eye on all these activities. His is the capital job of co-ordinating all the results for his success is an active Lodge proudly supported by its own members; a shining example to others of what can be done by carefully planned co-ordination of all the functions, and the considered use of specialized knowledge and service wherever it exists.

These are the root and branch of real and abiding fellowship.

A.M.M.