



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

Grand Master's Message

AS this is the last message it will be my privilege to address to you as your Grand Master, I want to express to each and every one of you Brothers my sincere thanks for your many kindnesses and for your splendid attendance at our District and other special meetings.

During the year many new names have been added to our membership and it is my fondest hope that you new members may find in your new connection a satisfaction for your soul and mind. Lodge meetings are held for two special reasons, moral instruction and social intercourse. Only by regular attendance

can you increase in knowledge to reap the full benefits

This fifth year of war has brought sorrow to many of our members through the loss of loved ones, who have given their lives in the cause of freedom. To those we express our heartfelt sympathy. It will be the duty of every Freemason to prove that they have not died in vain.

Sincerely and fraternally,

R. J. BRADLEY,
Grand Master

Rehabilitation - - - Reconstruction

WHEREVER we turn today, these words are very much in the forefront in the minds of men everywhere. The press, the radio, wherever one or two men are gathered together, it appears to be a topic of prime importance, nor are Governments less concerned than the average man.

Different plans have been put forward in various parts of the world, such as the Beveridge Plan in Britain and the Marsh Plan in Canada, all designed to raise the standard of living, and to give to the great mass of the people a brighter picture of the brave days to come, when wars shall be no more, and men can go about their daily avocations safe in the knowledge that the rewards of labour shall be better distributed, thus ensuring economic security for old age, a fuller life, a better prospect for their children. Almost without exception we find societies, clubs, and like organizations, with some plan to help out in this great work of helping to build a nobler and better world.

Nor is Freemasonry taking second place to anyone in planning as to what it may do in the great days that lie ahead. Grand Lodges everywhere are taking note of the situation and quietly raising Funds to assist distressed members during the period of read-

justment that is bound to occur when hostilities cease.

Nor is Alberta Freemasonry falling behind in giving thought to the future. Obviously the first thing to do is to find out just how many of our members are serving in the Armed Forces, and as whole families are involved, how many sons and daughters are also serving. This is a very necessary preliminary to any planning we may do. With this end in view, our Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Russell J. Bradley, set up a Committee in each Lodge to gather the data and forward it to the Grand Lodge office. The names received so far run well into four figures, with several Lodges yet to report.

A further step has been to set up central committees in Edmonton and Calgary, who will make a thorough study of affairs in their respective districts, with a view to co-ordinating effort.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the men comprising these Committees were chosen because of their peculiar fitness to deal with matters of this kind, or by reason of military experience, a very valuable asset.

It may be said—So far so good, what are you

going to do about it—a fair enough question—yet I am sure you will agree that at the moment we can do very little except to prepare for whatever may be in store, and when the time comes, to take appropriate action.

Here is where the Masonic War Distress Fund fits into the picture. Perhaps we shall not need much money—it may be that support of a nature other than financial may be the more desirable. Perhaps a little spiritual guidance to help out men who have been through hell itself.

That, brethren, brings up the question as to where rehabilitation begins. Make no mistake about this, brethren, a new world, and a new way of life cannot be brought about by Act of Parliament. It must start in the hearts of men first. Masonry's ancient plan of making "good men better" still holds the key to happiness: you must have a sound foundation on which to erect a superstructure creditable to the builder. No plan, Government or otherwise, can succeed unless it has the material to work with, and that, boiled down, is the hearty co-operation, even if it means sacrifice, of every individual for the common good.

It was laid down by the Great Architect in man's infancy—"By the sweat of your brow shall ye live". The great law has never failed. Where Nations have become wealthy and lazy, they invariably lose all those sterling qualities that made them great; to be conquered in turn by more barbarous, if less cultured peoples. All history proclaims this great fact, and, Brethren, if we need in this old world one thing more than another, it is the recognition of the necessity and dignity of work, which, in turn, develops many ennobling qualities. May we all stack up to our individual responsibilities; may the ideals of Freemasonry ever stand as a beacon light to men everywhere; may each one of us be a living witness to the ideals of Freemasonry. Let us not fail in humanity's most needy hour.

GEORGE MOORE,
Grand Secretary.

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THE MASONIC WAR DISTRESS FUND

At the meeting of the Finance Committee, held on May 17th last, at which the Grand Master was present, some discussion arose as to when the Fund should close for the year.

By resolution moved by the Grand Master, it was decided to bring this Fund into line with the fiscal year of Grand Lodge, and close it out on April 30th each year from now on, instead of June 30th, as heretofore.

Lodges will therefore take notice that all monies received from May 1st, 1944, will go into the 1944-45 period.

GEORGE MOORE,
Grand Secretary.

GRAND LODGE CALLING

In Edmonton on Wednesday and Thursday, June 14th and 15th next, Alberta Freemasons will assemble to hold their Thirty-Ninth Annual Communication.

It is not necessary for me to point out the desirability of every Lodge in the Jurisdiction being represented. Here will be transacted the general business of the Craft; new Amendments to the Constitution will be placed before the Brethren for their approval or otherwise. The various Committees will make their Reports dealing with the progress of the Craft during the past year. Finance, Benevolence, the Condition of Masonry in the Province, the Masonic War Distress Fund, these and others dealing with matters of interest and importance to the Lodges will come up for review and consideration.

Honoured Guests will be present from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Montana—to them we extend a hearty fraternal welcome, and we shall listen with interest to their words of greeting.

The guest speaker will be the M. W. Grand Master of British Columbia, the Rev. J. G. Brown, D.D., Principal of Union College.

Possibly the most important business to come before Grand Lodge will be the Election of Officers. Perhaps at no time in the history of the World does humanity find itself in such a state of chaos. Freemasonry, like all other institutions, will need the best it has to guide it through the post war period. On you, therefore, devolves the responsibility of selecting those whose duty it will be to guide the Craft in the days to come.

Ours is a challenging task, Brethren—let us all give of our abilities to the great work that lies ahead.

GEORGE MOORE,
Grand Secretary.

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ENGLISH PUBLISH RITUAL IN BRAILLE

In past years the Masonic ritual was learned by a lifetime of service, continual study and close application, and a long and tedious training. For the blind, this was an almost impossible achievement and due to the misfortunes of war, many ardent members of the Craft, both in the armed forces and among the civilians, have been deprived of that blessing, sight. Recognizing the situation, the Fraternity in the British Isles has decided to do something about it and in consequence those so afflicted will soon be able to obtain the ritual in two volumes, entitled "The Perfect Ceremonies of Craft Masonry," in Braille. Sale of these will, of course, be confined to members of the Craft and the publishers are to be congratulated upon the sentiment which induced them to undertake such a service to the unfortunate Brethren.—*Exchange.*

LETTER FROM A BEREAVED FATHER

Reprinted from the *Masonic Bulletin*
By special permission G.L.B.C.

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*“And falling thus he wants no recompense,
 Who found his battle in the last resort;
 Nor needs he any hearse to bear him hence,
 Who goes to join the men of Agincourt.”*

(Extract from a letter written by the father of a native boy of the Cariboo—a Maple Leaf that fell in a great storm.)

March 6th, 1944.

Dear Bro. —

Please convey to the Worshipful Master and Brethren of — Lodge our sincere thanks for their kind expression of sympathy on the passing of our beloved son, D—. In this time of our great sorrow, such warm sincere thoughts from our old friends in the Lodge touch our hearts deeply. . . .

Many of you knew him well as a gay young lad full of life. When the Great Architect called him he was still young and gay, courageous and with a deep sense of duty. He saw his duty very clearly, and did not hesitate to offer his life, freely, for us all.

We wonder, are we worthy of such sacrifices as this, and will our country and its leaders realize their responsibilities and endeavour to eliminate greed, selfishness and personal gain, so that the future may hold out some ray of hope for the “common man”? You know our Masonic teachings have the answer to all our troubles if we will only put them into practice in our daily lives.

I have often thought, what is Freemasonry doing to try to bring about the kind of world we want to live in? Individually it is hard to make much headway, but collectively (Freemasonry being universal), if Freemasons the world over had a definite programme and made up their minds that Right, and Right only, should prevail, then nothing on earth could stop it.

If only someone, somewhere in the higher circles would organize a Masonic Crusade against the powers of evil everywhere. If Freemasons would band together and be true to their obligations, would practise the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, then indeed would there be some hope of a better world, with no further need for this terrible toll of brave young lives.

There is a tendency these days to confine Masonic practice to within the walls of the Temple, with our Masonic eyes and hearts closed to anything outside

the immediate wants of the individual Brother and member. As individuals we hesitate to sacrifice any little pleasure or comfort for others. What a lesson we can learn from these brave young souls who go forth prepared to give their all, without reservation, on land, on the sea, and in the skies. . . .

If these few thoughts will help us as Freemasons to see our duty more clearly, then the sacrifice of my boy and thousands more will not have been in vain, and the Honour and Glory will be theirs.

With heartfelt thanks to all the Brethren for their kindly sympathy.

Believe me,

Ever fraternally yours,

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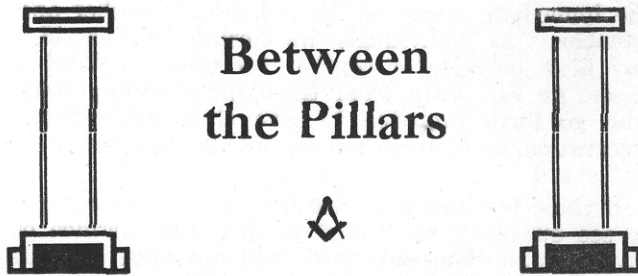
THE INSIDE VIEW

When the war broke upon us, social, religious, and political differences were laid aside and each community became desirous of working harmoniously together to defeat the evil that threatened us. An achievement worth thinking about would be the continuation of this harmonious teamwork after the danger is past. There are folks among us, who, Pollyanna-like, look on the bright side of things, while there are those who take a pessimistic view. The optimist, often afraid to face reality, believes that everything is all good. The morbid pessimist believes that everything is all bad. Neither is right because each is taking an outside view, and the full truth is on the inside. The goal of a finer peace, toward which all Masons, and others, are looking, will demand great sacrifices from you and me if it is to succeed. Our selfishness and indifference of the past, which permitted the present evil to creep upon us and to strangle the roots of decency, should never recur. Let's take a lesson from our “superior”, “master race” enemies. Those one time overbearing, gloating, brutal, self-styled supermen have suddenly become humans again when the bombs now destroy their own cities and danger confronts them. Out of this cataclysmic war a new pattern for nobility must be evolved which will bring to all of us an attitude of compassion for others, all races, and freedom for the unborn. It is the inside view of the situation that reveals its values.

—The Trestle Board.

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Let us write the faults of others in the sands of forgetfulness, and where the virtue of fidelity adorns, chisel it on the marble of memory.



Between the Pillars

NOT WORLDLY WEALTH OR HONOR

(Herewith is reprinted an editorial from the *Masonic Chronicle* of Chicago which gives a word picture of the very foundation and fundamentals of the Masonic institution. Every novice, in fact every Mason, will be profited by the reading of it.—*Ed.*)

Brethren: Many people not acquainted with the secrets, the lights, rights and arts of Masonry, have wondered, through the ages, what keeps it alive. Whence comes the power to survive and grow through long centuries even though many times enemies have sought to destroy it. In the history of man almost uncounted organizations have been formed for specific purposes. These have nourished for a time and then, even as nations themselves, have passed into decay to fade away into nothingness. What, then, is the secret source of life and power that maintains Masonry through all vicissitudes, that keeps it marching triumphantly on through wars, pestilence and social upheaval?

The answer to these questions is simple and the beginner in Masonry finds it in one of the first Masonic lectures given him. The good he gets from Masonic Brotherhood and the value he returns to it will largely spring from the degree of his grasp on this essential lesson.

In the past and I regret to say that in the present too, most of the organizations built by man spring wholly from considerations bearing upon his immediate and earthly welfare. Naturally all these are subject to the changes forced upon man by the constantly shifting scenes within which he moves. What is desirable today frequently needs alteration tomorrow. Thus, most of such organizations, even though laudable, being geared to external values go through constant changes and some disappear completely.

The noble Order of Masonry is not so constructed. Just as the original Temple was built by Master workmen upon principles and plans not used in ordinary structures, so also is Speculative Masonry firmly established upon basic fundamentals of righteous living which are everlasting and which change not regardless of what may occur to alter man's purely mundane affairs.

Within the sacred ranks of Masonic Brotherhood the worldly wealth or honors of any man does not,

can not lift him above his fellows. Therefore in all ages since the founding of the Order we have rejoiced to include among our members many of those deemed by the world to be greatest, richest and most highly honored among men. These were happy to humble themselves and always meet with us and part from us on a common level. In no other way could they become or remain Masons. Herein will be found a part of the quiet but unbreakable force which has kept and which keeps Masonry alive.

It is the complete acceptance of Masonry of that standard, or principle by which the Supreme Architect judges every man. In Biblical language it is expressed thus: "Man looketh upon the outward things but the Lord looketh upon the heart." This, my brethren, was made a corner stone in our spiritual Temple. It is why the great thought was expressed in some of the early lectures of Masonry. Without this as a foundation our Order would have passed away ages ago. Or if it survived in any form it would have changed to something entirely different from what we know.

Masonry, not having been designed to promote wealth, honor or power among men, does not consider these things when a candidate for membership appears. Do you remember how you first appeared in a Masonic Lodge? Every brother, in what ever land he may live, came to us in that same manner. The purpose is plain, and even plainly expressed.

It is good to recall these things, to keep them ever before us, because in them is the life, strength and value of Masonry. True, there are many beautiful ceremonies held in the various degrees of the Order. But all of them stem from this one central idea or purpose. All teach the same lesson, which is: it is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man which make him acceptable for membership.

These qualifications are changeless because they are wrought from the essence of truth. Whatever we may achieve or fail to achieve in the way of worldly wealth or honors among men have little bearing upon what we actually are. Masonry lives because it is concerned with what men really are—not with what they may appear to be.

The more completely we comprehend this undying source of power the more our Masonic Brotherhood will mean to us personally and the better will be the example we set before a world confused by darkness and sadly needing the Three Great Lights by which we are privileged to walk through the ages.

—*Masonic Tribune.*



Never value anything as profitable to thyself which shall compel thee to break thy promise, to lose thy self-respect, to hate any man, to suspect, to curse, to act the hypocrite, to desire anything which needs walls and curtains.—*Marcus Aurelius.*