



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.

## Our Hopes are Realized - PEACE

OVER a world dyed dark with suffering there now breathes the deep sweet sign of Peace and countless hearts are lifted up in praise. Our hopes of six long and strenuous years were realized on the afternoon of Tuesday, August 14th, 1945, when the news was flashed to every home, hamlet and town that Japan had at long last capitulated, it was indeed a time of thankfulness and rejoicing, many a heart was gladdened that it was no longer necessary for their loved ones to go forth and endure the hardships of battle.

We were again thrilled on the evening of Saturday, September 1st, when we heard in our homes the ceremony in Japan when their representatives signed the unconditional surrender agreement. We can now give thanks to the Most High that Peace reigns once more throughout the world. The several previous years have been dark and gloomy, now a period of brightness is in the making.

Those of us who were fortunate in having our loved ones returned to us, are truly thankful, to the many who were not so fortunate, we extend our sincerest sympathies.

We salute China who has suffered 14 long years of the horrors of war. The Russians whose soldiers have held high the banners of courage. The soldiers and people of the United Kingdom with their dauntless courage. Our Canadian sons and daughters who left the security and safety of their homes in the endeavour to make this a peaceful world, and lastly but not least, all the soldiers and peoples of our Allied Nations, all of which had their part to play, and they played it well.

Our hearts go out in thankfulness in that so many of our Canadian boys and Allied soldiers who have spent so long a time as prisoners in Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and other Far East places, are now free to return to their homes and loved ones. We shall never realize what we owe to these men and what horrors they endured. Let us all do what we can to assist in removing from their minds the horrible recollections they must have. May the sacri-

fices and hardships they endured never be forgotten by us.

Whilst the terrible war is over and our enemies, first Italy, then Germany, and finally Japan, have been defeated and laid low, the price we have paid is colossal. Let us hope Universal Peace for all time will be the result. Universal Peace is not too high a reward for the sacrifices the members of our Allied Forces have made. We shall have failed, and the blood of our dearest will have flowed in vain, if the victory which they died to win does not lead to a lasting Peace.

We have won the war, we might say we have won Victory, but not Peace. We must now turn our minds and efforts to winning the Peace. There is a wonderful amount of gladness in those four words, "The war is over", but do not let these four words unduly bias our plans for winning the Peace. The foundation of these plans will have to be firmly and securely laid and on those foundations let us raise up a superstructure that will be a credit to us as builders and which will prove of benefit to our fellow man, especially those who have served us so nobly and faithfully throughout the recent great struggle. It will be necessary for us to put forth our utmost endeavours in order to win a lasting Peace. Sound economic foundations will have to be found in order that our people can have a sound security of living. Many faced economic disaster and endured hardships for many years after the last Peace was declared. There will be some who will face similar conditions this time, but our previous experience should and will provide this time a job with decent living conditions for the masses. Let those in control of things keep their feet on the ground as it were; do not plan thinking the present good times and plentiful money will go on forever. They will not do so, but I do think a sound economic means of life can be worked out for all who so desire. We cannot escape the consequences of the past six years of destruction and waste of wealth; we face a decade, perhaps a longer period, of troubled times. If we meet them courageously and united, as we should do, we will overcome them without undue hardship.

If we do not overcome them, they will undoubtedly overcome us.

Let it be more than a hope for a lasting and permanent Peace; let us make the hopes of many years come true—a real Victory and Peace for all time.

SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.

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**MASONRY**

UPON completion of your third degree, you were informed that you now belonged to the oldest order known. Older than the Golden Fleece or the Star and Garter. This made you swell inwardly with pride but few of us have taken the trouble to learn just how old this order really is.

True enough, Masonry was not ritualized until long after the building of King Solomon's Temple and couched in the terms of a craftsman's union, acknowledging the rulings and mandates of the Supreme Architect among craftsmen. Yet in its first inception it dates back some 200,000 years. Its symbols and signs are found in the ruins of the Cliff Dwellers, the Totempoles of Alaska and in the late Archaeological Discoveries of Mexico and Central America. These late discoveries have verified some very salient facts that support the various writings of the past 100 years, that have long been classed as myths and fables by many historians, especially those who still believe Columbus discovered America.

The Pyramids of Central America and Mexico were built long before the Pyramids of Egypt, yet by the same people. The Western Civilizations are far older than the Eastern Civilizations. The Egyptian Empire was young compared with the Empire of La Muria and the succeeding World Empire of Atlantis.

Osiris, who played such a spectacular role in Ancient History, and whose influence was felt down through the Egyptian, Greek and Roman Empires, in religious circles, was born in Atlantis, educated in the universities of La Muria and went to Egypt to establish the longest existing form of religion of the Egyptian Empire. He was deified and his religious teachings perverted by the influence of the Brahmans with their introduction of the Mysteries and superstitions and a dominating Priesthood.

The schools and universities dispensed knowledge Masonically. The graduate of today was the teacher of the succeeding class. The La Murians used the forum system of teaching.

The basis of their religion was the twelve great virtues man should aspire to and attain to reach perfection. Their marriage ceremony smacks of our first degree. On entering their temples or pyramids, the great circle would be very much in evidence. This represented the Creator, displayed similar to our large letter G to represent Deity in our lodges. This sign has long been mistaken by historians think-

ing it indicated sunworshippers. The circle represented the Creator as He began no place and ended no place and was eternal.

The original Swastika, perverted by Hitler, depicted the Creator giving authority to the four great affinity forces of the earth and the universe, who brought peace and harmony out of chaos in the beginning. On this Swastika are the square, the double square (the builder and the architect). Original Masonic symbols.

The great Pyramid of Egypt is no less than a monument to Masonry. The antechamber, the inner-chamber, the granite sarcophagous and the rough and rugged passageways tell their stories.

A friend of mine, who visited the Pyramid a few years back, was greatly surprised to learn that his Arab guide was a 32nd degree Mason and he explained each step in Masonry as they went through. He came out of the Pyramid a better Mason than when he went in.

I hope this will be of interest to some of my brother Masons.

B. J. HARRINGTON,  
*Ivanhoe Masonic News.*

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**OUR BABY LODGE**

Empress Lodge, No. 161, who received their Charter at the recent Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge was duly Constituted and Consecrated at Empress, Alberta, on Friday, June 15th, 1945, by the Grand Master M. W. Bro. Rev. Canon Crane-Williams assisted by several present and past Grand Lodge Officers. More than 100 members were present in a nicely appointed Lodge Room which is hoped will be used exclusively for Masonic purposes.

The well wishes of all the members in this Grand Jurisdiction are extended to our baby lodge, may they strengthen the chain of Masonry in our fair Province.

S.H.

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**LEST WE FORGET**

"Masonry teaches man to practice charity and benevolence, to protect chastity, to respect the ties of blood and friendship, to adopt the principles and revere the ordinance of religion, to assist the feeble, guide the blind, raise up the down-trodden, shelter the orphan, guard the altar, support the government, inculcate morality, promote learning, love man, fear God, implore His mercy and hope for happiness."

*Selected.*

### THE PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECT OF OUR DISTRICT MEETINGS

IT has been my privilege during July, August, and September, to attend several of our District Meetings along with The Most Worshipful The Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, and other Grand Lodge Officers. Through such experience this year I realize more than ever that our seventeen Masonic Districts set-up is of high value masonically to our Sovereign body of Freemasonry in Alberta. True, some matters dealt with at the Annual District gathering are of local interest only' but one finds also that a keen interest is taken in Masonry of the broader sphere, which reaches even far and beyond the confines of our Grand Jurisdictional Territory. Some of our deepest thinkers on things masonic are members of so-called "Country Lodges", who at their little Grand Lodge, the District Meeting, contribute interesting and inspiring messages on the ideal functions of the fraternity, and the high value there is in the actual practice of Masonry's philosophy of Life.

A splendid example of deep thinking was given by a brother of a country lodge when proposing the Toast to Grand Lodge. His remarks, based upon the study of the Preamble to the Constitution of our Grand Lodge, brought home most forcibly to all of us the fundamentals of our Society in Alberta, and upon which Alberta's forty years of Freemasonry has been built. I could do nothing better in this article than to quote the "Preamble" to our Constitution, which is our foundation stone:

"We, The Grand Lodge of Alberta, Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, in order to form perfect fraternal union, to establish order, to insure tranquility, to provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and to secure to the fraternity in the Province of Alberta all the blessings of Masonic privileges, do order and establish this Constitution."

Speaking symbolically, that foundation upon which our masonic structure has been erected, is a firmly interlocked setting of perfect Ashlars. This structure built during the last four decades in Alberta, the proposer of the Toast found to be one of stability for posterity as well as for we of the Contemporary Craft. Let us go further than the revelation of but one highlight of a District Meeting, and endeavor to find out what our "Masonic District" in reality is.

One brother, well informed on the mechanics of our Grand Jurisdictions refers to it as "A little Grand Lodge" within a Sovereign Grand Body. That its functions (though to a limited degree) are similar to the functions and purposes of what is known as a "Provincial Grand Lodge". It is possible such opinion is well founded, but the "Masonic District" set-up within the Grand Jurisdiction structure of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M., is a more democratic Institution (within a parent Institution) than what we know of in the world-wide domain of the Craft as a "Provincial Grand Lodge",

For our District Deputy Grand Masters are *elected* by the district brethren (subject to the Grand Master's approval) whereas the Grand Master of a Provincial Grand Lodge is *appointed* by the Grand Master of the Parent Grand Body.

The establishment, therefore, of our District System along democratic lines, has kept Alberta masonry abreast with the broad principles of today's Freemasonry without violating any of the fundamentals of the Craft.

Many of us will recall that District Meetings of earlier years were referred to as "Lodges of Instruction" and are still so referred to in some instances. These were and are Districts which consistently exemplify degrees with a view to instruction from Custodians of the Work, while other Districts used the Question Box or open forum as mediums for technical instruction. Today we find that the District Meeting is a broadened idea of masonic association for improvement in, and progress of masonry in *many* of its phases. We find this in the Lodge reports which reveal the practice of Freemasonry beyond the limited confines of the parochial. We find it in the messages of advanced thought delivered by the brethren. We find it in the broad views which run through the discussions in the Forum, and we find it in the wisdom on things masonic as expressed by visiting guests, including the Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

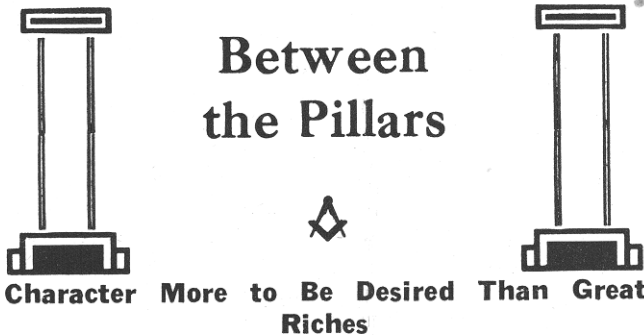
Can we not say then, that in essence, our "Masonic Districts" are each and all important parts in the make-up of Alberta Freemasonry, which, known as a Sovereign Body of the Ancient Craft, teaches the progressive science of true fraternalism.

Masonic Philosophy, the life spark of the fraternity is an orderly assembly of masonic thought, belief, knowledge and understanding garnered down through the centuries from the inception of the ancient craft to the present era. This includes valuable lessons on culture in the legends of tested tradition and in the written word of recorded masonic development and progress. In more descriptive language, Masonic Philosophy is "The Craftsman's guiding light along the pathway of a decent life". Craft philosophy however, is but a vague idealism to those who do not seek for further light.

It is reassuring to know, through the medium of the district meeting that many members of the Craft are both seekers and finders of further masonic light. This is clearly revealed in the warmth of long established conciliatory friendships which are lasting and continuous experiences of fraternal goodwill. In this alone, the annual "Get-Together" of District Lodges proves the "Condition of Masonry" in Alberta to be both progressive and sound. Long may our "Little Grand Lodges" continue to play an important part in the great drama of Freemasonry as it now enters upon the State of a new and brighter World of Freedom.

ARTHUR G. R. BOND,

D.G.M.



**T**HIS EDITORIAL originally appeared in September, 1939. By request it was reprinted in January, 1940. It is again reprinted in response to two requests.

Character is the greatest of human traits. It is greater than riches, for riches may be a curse to one deficient in character. It is greater than religion, for church buildings would rot and decay if persons of character did not stand as the bulwarks of religion. It is greater than our social fabric, for were it not for character, men would fear to associate with each other. It is greater than government, for, without character, governments would crumble in the dust, anarchy would triumph, property rights would vanish, food and clothing would be for the strong, marriage would cease to be an institution and women would be playthings of the powerful. It is greater than reputation, for reputation may be despoiled and taken from us by an ill spoken word, but character is ours while life is ours and cannot be lowered by scandal, nor heightened by undeserved praise or compliment.

Reputation is what folks say about us. Character is what we know about ourselves. We make our own character and can mould it at our will. Reputation is made by our friends and enemies. A scandal monger may blacken reputation in a moment, but character remains ours to be used in living down the poisoned words of the talebearer.

While good name is of great value in our dealings with the world, by loss of good name we have lost something of material value only, while, if we retain character, we keep all our spiritual wealth. When character is lost we lose everything, both material and spiritual, and are poor indeed. Character is symbolic of our attitude toward the laws of God and man; character is exemplified by our interest in the welfare and comfort of our fellow beings; character is fulfillment of duties we are capable of performing in a worthwhile service; character is everything that we are, everything that we hope to be.

Never before has there been greater need for men and women of character and at no time has there been less interest, by so many, in the nobler and better things, never before has there been more seeking for pleasures and sins that weaken character, less interest in the work of organizations

that strengthen character, never before has there been less interest in the election of men of character to office, never before has there been greater disrespect for the rights of others, never before has there been more selfishness and fewer sacrifices.

Men and women of character are needed for public place; men and women of character are needed as examples of respect for law; men and women of character are needed for mothers and fathers of those who soon will take our places. One of the greatest troubles with the world today is that children haven't the parents that children had in the good old days, to which we would not return but from which we might learn much in character building.

Building character today is by far more difficult than ever. Pleasures are too common, life too free. Great characters were built in the days when men and women drove back the cougar and the rattlesnake and carved homes out of the wilderness, when food and clothing were of the coarsest, when school children sat on benches hewn from logs and walked two or three miles to get there, when a preacher travelled hundreds of miles covering a circuit, when men and women provided their own pleasures, when there were no true lies magazines and the Bible was a large part of the family library, when there was greater belief in the power of prayer and less belief in the power of pelf.

Great characters are built in overcoming trials, in surmounting great obstacles, in hurdling obstructions that others said could not be overcome, in achieving great ends against great odds.

George Washington, the social lion, the man of wealth, built character that fateful winter at Valley Forge. Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator, built character when he studied by the light of the fireplace while companions frittered their time away.

We can build character by doing things others have done, but we can't build character by doing things just because others have done them. We can build character by doing the things which each of us knows he should do. Lack of instruction is no excuse.

Bro. ELBERT BEDE.  
*Editor, Oregon Mason.*

### ● ● ● AN IMPORTANT WARNING

"Many lodges are being inundated with a flood of petitions. Be vigilant! A careless or incompetent investigating committee can build up a lot of headaches for the hard working secretary and the membership! Unless the investigating committees do their work thoroughly and faithfully they but cheapen Masonry and belittle the value of Masonic credentials. The quality of its membership is more important than the number enrolled."—*The Masonic Beacon*, Akron, Ohio.