



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.

## Grand Master's Conference, Washington, D.C.

If you will read the first three opening paragraphs of the Grand Secretary's report from Washington, D.C., you will then consider the same heading as this and I will immediately proceed with the report on the Conference.

On reporting, we found that all forty-nine Grand Lodges in the U.S.A., and seven Canadian Grand Jurisdictions, and Puerto Rico were represented. The following questions were discussed at this Conference:

1. Assimilating War Time Masons.
2. How Can We Promote Lodge Attendance?
3. Should the War Change Our Viewpoint on Physical Qualifications?
4. Do We Have an Obligation to Negro Freemasonry?
5. Effect of the War on the Future of Freemasonry.

It was very interesting to listen to these papers and we found that many of the troublesome questions in the United States did not effect us but some of them do.

The first paper, given by the Grand Master of Texas, was devoted entirely to the question of Lodge attendance and how to promote it. Many of the suggestions he made are now in effect in many lodges in this Jurisdiction but these suggestions will be brought to you at the District Meetings more fully.

Following this paper I was introduced, and asked to say a few words as the representative of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. After bringing greetings to the Conference from your good self and the Grand Lodge of Alberta, I went on to say I was of the firm opinion that in our Grand Jurisdiction, and no doubt the same condition applied in their Grand Jurisdiction, lodges were too big to have good attendance. In many lodges if all the brethren attended there would not be seating capacity for them and I suggested that we follow the Grand Lodge of England in trying to limit the membership of lodges.

The second paper—How Can We Promote Lodge Attendance?—approached the question from an en-

tirely different angle but in the final analysis the problem was the same.

The third paper referring to Physical Qualifications, the Grand Master of North Dakota stated he thought that the qualifications should be modified to a certain extent and that a man with a leg or an arm off should be admitted. The Grand Master of West Virginia just as forcefully sold us on the idea that no let-up on the qualifications should be thought of. In this connection it is interesting to note that our neighboring Province of Saskatchewan has permitted a blind man to become a member.

The fourth paper, the obligation to Negro Freemasonry, was dealt with by the Grand Master of North Carolina and although they realized the legitimacy of colored Freemasonry could be recognized they were strongly against any fraternization with them. This, of course, is a question that does not enter into Freemasonry in Alberta, although most of us know we have colored Freemasonry in all its degrees they do not in any way interfere with us and no doubt derive a great deal of benefit from Freemasonry just as we do.

The fifth paper, Effects of War on the Future of Freemasonry, the Grand Master of Pennsylvania gave a wonderful paper on this but again the question of Lodge attendance was very prominent in his paper. He more or less agreed with my statement that smaller lodges is the answer.

There is one other question I wish to cover on this report and that is the Masonic War Services Incorporated. This is headed up by Bro. Claudy who is famous for his writings. It appears that when war broke out the Masonic Grand Lodges of the various States decided they wanted to do some War Service and the officials of the United States informed them they would have to organize themselves into one body, so that there would not be numerous Grand Lodges attempting the same thing, before they could receive recognition. This was done and thirty of

the Grand Lodges in the United States banded together, making an assessment from every member of, I believe, 50 cents, to start the fund. They did a wonderful work during the war by supplying reading rooms and recreation halls for all soldiers on all fronts. When the war was over, in place of folding up their tents as many of the War Services did, they decided to carry on in the way of bringing cheer to the wounded soldiers in the various hospitals in the United States.

The first thing it was necessary to do in this connection was to train personnel to carry on the work. This they immediately did and no doubt they are carrying on a wonderful work. They showed a reel of one of their training personnel in a certain hospital entertaining, supplying the wounded soldiers with everything from typewriters to shaving mirrors, and in one particular case, a very bad case of a man losing his mind, with their help he regained his normal senses.

I would like to have written more on this but I feel this report would be too long, but to give you the highlights of the particular case I have mentioned, this man was under the impression that he had through his own neglect caused the death of the pilot of the plane in which he was the gunner. They did everything to bring this man back and as a last resort the personnel found the man he thought he had caused the death of, had him flown to the hospital, and when the man finally recognized him he recovered from his ailment and was released from hospital and returned to his family and normal life. Some 40,000 soldiers have been greatly helped through this service.

No doubt this is a wonderful work and perhaps a work that all the Grand Lodges in Canada could undertake in a smaller way if we had the consent of all Grand Lodges in British North America. It would require a tremendous amount of work on the part of some individual but no doubt if this could be developed we would be able to get aid from the Grand Lodges of the United States.

I do not want these remarks to be considered that I am recommending that this be undertaken.

Regarding the All-Canadian Conference, our Grand Secretary has given you a full report on this and I will only state that whether we want it or not an All-Canadian Association is certain to be formed. I also feel a great deal of benefit may be derived by all Grand Lodges in British North America through such an organization.

I have accepted the honor of being Chairman of the first committee to organize such a meeting sometime in the year 1949. Again, M. W. Bro. Moore has given you the names on all committees and it is not necessary for me to repeat them.

*R. W. Bro. A. D. Cumming,  
Senior Grand Warden.*

## GRAND SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA

For many years past there has been held in the City of Washington, D.C. a Grand Masters' Conference of the U.S.A. The Grand Secretaries of the U.S.A. have also met at the same time. The Grand Lodge of Alberta, in common with other Canadian Jurisdictions, have always been extended a courteous invitation to send Delegates to these two conferences. Hitherto, this Jurisdiction has not seen its way clear to accept these invitations.

However, our United States Brethren, in view of the increasing number of Representatives from the Canadian Jurisdictions, changed the name of this Conference from "The Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of the U.S.A." to that of "The Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of North America".

In view of the All-Canada Masonic Conference to be held at Montebello, Quebec, on February 24th and 25th, 1947, it was decided that R. W. Bro. A. D. Cumming, S.G.W. and M. W. Bro. George Moore, Grand Secretary, attend these two Conferences, in view of the small extra cost involved.

The proceedings of the Grand Masters' Conference will be dealt with in a separate paper by R. W. Bro. A. D. Cumming, and the following remarks deal exclusively with the Grand Secretaries' Conference.

On reporting, we found that all Forty-Nine Grand Lodges in the U.S.A. were represented, and seven of the Nine Canadian Jurisdictions, all of whom met under the Chairmanship of Most Wor. Brother Richard C. Davenport, Grand Secretary of Illinois.

Following the usual regular business, the following subjects were dealt with:

1. Foreign Relations—New York.
2. Waivers of Jurisdictions—Connecticut.
3. Dimit and Universal Transfers—California.
4. Automatic Suspension—Texas.
5. Meaning of Masonic Tolerance and Brotherhood—Virginia.

All these subjects were vigorously discussed by those present.

To an observer, like myself, it would appear that the Forty-Nine Grand Jurisdictions in the United States had many and various ways of doing business, and, to one raised under the customs and usages of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, I could not escape the conclusion that Alberta had nothing to learn from what was presented at this Conference. It appeared to me that one hundred or two hundred years or more of settled conditions, with their difference in origin and outlook and established customs, based on long years of experience, in many, many cases, definitely, would not be acceptable in Alberta. Our Western Canadian Jurisdictions are not very old, Masonically

speaking, our Membership has come to us from the four quarters of the globe, and it is my considered opinion that we started at a point at which many of these Bodies have not yet arrived. One was surprised to learn of hundreds of candidates in waiting for the Degrees—of Dispensations being issued for large numbers to be initiated at one time—the peculiar claims of some Grand Lodges in the matter of Jurisdiction, collection of Fees for the Degrees, payments, etc. seemed foreign indeed to your Alberta Representative, and savoured strongly of the assembly line in some cases.

One was also surprised to learn that only a few of the United States Grand Lodges had Automatic Suspension. The Representative of the Grand Lodge of Texas, where it had been in operation for twelve years, gave a glowing account of its operation in that State, and submitted extensive figures showing its beneficial effect on the many Lodges in that Jurisdiction. We, in Alberta, were glad to endorse this type of legislation.

Perhaps the highlight of the Conference was a most interesting Address by M. W. Bro. Charles H. Johnson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York, who had just returned from an extensive personal tour of the European Countries, on the Condition of Masonry in the war-torn lands of Europe.

Obviously, one cannot go into extensive explanation in a brief report of this kind; moreover, some of it was of a confidential nature. A verbatim report will arrive at this office in due course, and in the meantime every effort will be made to spread this knowledge among our own Alberta Brethren.

In conclusion, I feel that the general value of such a Conference is in contacts made. The meeting in the flesh of distinguished leaders of the Craft in the U.S.A. with whom one has been in correspondence for years. Altogether, I feel that the extra time and expense involved will be of benefit to our Jurisdiction.

*M. W. Bro. George Moore, P.G.M.  
Grand Secretary.*

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### ALL-CANADIAN MASONIC CONFERENCE

On February 24th, 1947, at the Seignior Club, Montebello, Quebec, a meeting was held that was unique in the annals of Canadian Freemasonry; a meeting that was historic and fraught with great possibilities for good for Canadian Freemasonry. For here, gathered together under the Chairmanship of M. W. Bro. Charles S. Hamilton, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario, was brought into being the first All-Canada Masonic Conference.

As a prelude to the proceedings, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, M. W. Bro. L. H. Boyd, extended a hearty welcome from his Jurisdic-

tion to the 32 delegates and visitors from the Nine Provinces of Canada, and the English and Scottish District Grand Lodges of Newfoundland. Here, for the first time in Canadian Masonic History, every Jurisdiction in Canada was represented by its chief Officers.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman, M. W. Bro. Hamilton, extended the greetings of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario, expressing his pleasure at the representative attendance from other Canadian Jurisdictions. He pointed out that this meeting was held for the sole purpose of building for the future; for cultivating closer fraternal relations; to promote better understanding between the various parts of the Dominion, and urged that no delay occur in the formation of this Conference, so that our final objective, that of closer relationships, might find final attainment. He stressed the point that definitely no attempt was being made at forming a Sovereign Grand Lodge; that no attempt would be made to interfere in the affairs of any Jurisdiction; that the object of the Conference was solely to bring us into closer alignment and a fuller knowledge of each others problems and outlook.

A thorough and frank discussion ensued, in which practically everyone present took part. It was agreed that such a Conference was desirable, and as a preliminary, a Committee was appointed to bring in a report on such matters as Officers, Finances, and how often such meeting would be held.

The following papers were given:

1. **Grand Lodge Publications.**  
M. W. Bro. George Moore—Alberta.
2. **Recognition of Foreign Jurisdictions.**  
R. W. Bro. R. D. Magee—New Brunswick.  
M. W. Bro. R. V. Harris—Nova Scotia.  
M. W. Bro. George Moore—Alberta.
3. **Masonic Education.**  
M. W. Bro. W. J. Dunlop—Ontario.  
R. W. Bro. George C. Wood—New Brunswick.  
M. W. Bro. R. E. Kemp—New Brunswick.
4. **How can Masonry avoid repeating the mistakes made following World War I?**  
M. W. Bro. W. L. Clink—Saskatchewan.

Much interesting information was brought out in the general discussion which followed these papers. I regret that space does not permit reporting these discussions at greater length.

Later, the Committee, being ready with their Report, brought in the following:

#### OFFICERS:

President.....R. W. Bro. A. D. Cumming—Alberta  
Vice-President R. W. Bro. Geo. C. Wood—New  
Brunswick.  
Secretary.....R. W. Bro. Ewart G. Dixon—Canada  
in Ontario.

**Finances:**

It was recognized that the smaller Grand Lodges could not hope to afford the expense of three delegates to this Conference at any time. At Ontario's suggestion, it was proposed to levy an assessment on the Masonic population of Canada of approximately .02½c to .03c per head throughout the Dominion. This would provide a pool from which expenses could be drawn, and in which Ontario would obviously carry the load. This would place all Grand Lodges on an equal footing, and enable even the smallest Grand Lodge to send three delegates to the Conference, wherever held.

**MEETINGS:**

It was suggested that the meeting be held in some central part of Canada bi-annually.

**Fact Finding Committee on Foreign Relations:**

The following were appointed:

M. W. Bro. R. V. Harris—Nova Scotia.

M. W. Bro. George Moore—Alberta.

These proposals, after some discussion, were adopted, and the All-Canada Masonic Conference thus came into being.

These proposals will, of course, have to be endorsed by each Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication. Hope was expressed that each Grand Lodge would support these proposals, as here was provided an instrument to co-ordinate and co-operate with Canadian Masonic thought, whose influence might easily be felt in Canada for all time to come.

Tribute was paid to the work of the Conferences of Western Jurisdictions which have been held at Banff during the past few years, and the prominent part which Alberta has played in these Conferences, was reflected in the selection of R. W. Bro. A. D. Cumming as its first President. The All-Canada Masonic Conference should have the support of every thinking Mason in the Dominion. We feel sure that Alberta will rise to the occasion.

The Alberta Delegation consisted of R. W. Bro. A. D. Cumming, S.G.W.; R. W. Bro. W. H. Henry, J. G. W. and M. W. Bro. George Moore, Grand Secretary; also M. W. Bros. Geo. F. Ellis and F. P. Galbraith, who happened to be in the East on business, attended as unofficial representatives.

Full Minutes of this Conference will be sent to the Grand Lodge of Alberta in due course.

M. W. Bro. George Moore, P.G.M.  
Grand Secretary.

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I hope I always shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider to be the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.  
—George Washington.

**THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN**

"Am I my brothers keeper?"  
Is the question each must face,  
To build a happy nation,  
Or go down, in great disgrace.

By greed, I might make millions  
Yet never make a friend,  
While thousands work as minions  
To serve my selfish end.

But where mans love is missing  
The germs of hate will grow  
And workers come forth hissing,  
My plans to overthrow.

Then would I know the answer;  
The truth that makes man free,  
"I am my brothers keeper",  
And he in turn keeps me.

R. W. Bro. D. H. Galbraith, P.D.D.G.M.  
Vulcan Lodge No. 74, A.F. & A.M.

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**MASONRY HAS NO MESSAGE**

As a reply to those who would counsel change in our organization, M. W. Brother Darrach of Prince Edward Island, in his opening address to the Grand Lodge said: "Masonry has no report of progress to make—no new message to give the world. The world has not outgrown her teaching; nor has she lost her place; nor is she likely to until the great doctrine of the Brotherhood of Man is universally recognized and acted upon instead of being a beautiful theory; not until the words brotherly love, relief, and truth make sweeter music for the ears of men than the triumphant blare of the trumpet, telling of the defeat and slaughter of their fellows; not until the God of the nations becomes the God of peace, and not the God of war; not until the white apron, emblem of purity and peace, shall be more highly honored by the nations of the earth, than the blood-stained banner of war. Then but not till then, may her epitaph be written.

Exchange.

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Limerick Lodge No. 13, of Limerick, Ireland, proudly possesses what is claimed to be the oldest Masonic jewel in existence. It consists of a small brass square on which is engraved the date, 1519, with the words: "I live with love and care, by the level and on the square."

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Cultivate simplicity, or rather, I should say, banish elaborateness; for simplicity springs spontaneous from the heart, and carries into daylight its own buds of genuine, sweet, and clear flowers of expression.  
—Charles Lamb.