



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: Sam HARRIS, P.G.M.

Masons - Awake!

I welcome the opportunity so kindly extended to me by the Editor of the "Bulletin" to send a message to Freemasons throughout the Province of Alberta. I very sincerely prize the opportunity of serving you as Grand Master and of mingling with our Brethren throughout the Jurisdiction. I recognize the great responsibility and privilege which my office affords me and I hope that we may all go forward to the advancement of the interests of our noble Cause. I feel that I have been elected to this high office, not merely to enjoy the honors associated therewith, but, rather, to serve the Brethren with sincerity and humility. The many eminent men who have preceded me in office, each of whom has contributed much to the high standing which Freemasonry now enjoys in this Province, will inspire me to strive to maintain the noble Principles of our Fraternity.

Cut in the stone over the gate of a city in the hinterland of China is found an inscription which, translated, reads "It is later than you think". A strange inscription, perhaps. True in the day when it was inscribed but equally true in this critical time in the history of nations. Only in North America is there peace and security but can we long maintain our security in the face of world conditions? Scientific invention has now made the world so small that all nations are now neighbors and what happens in China, Hungary or Pakistan today may have repercussions in our own land tomorrow. The financial crisis in Britain today cannot but affect the economic situation, even in our own Province.

In these ominous days we often recall the prophetic words of the late Sir Edward Grey in 1914. Looking out over the London streets as dawn broke, he saw a lamp-lighter extinguishing the lights and, turning to his companion, remarked "the lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our day". Time is limitless—our plans stretch far into the dim future. "Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow rolls on this petty pace from day to day" and yet, for many, there was a time when there was no future; when to look ahead was to look into oblivion. There are those who knew those moments when time itself seemed to stand still before the barrage went over; to speak then of

tomorrow was to speak of something that they might never know. Today, this moment, was all the reality that they knew, for the moments were fleeting. For many of them it was already later than they knew.

In all this welter of confusion in the world today what is the place of Freemasonry? The teachers of Freemasonry, like Truth itself, are eternal—they never change. Our Order has a solution to world problems if only mankind would heed our teachings.

Mankind is now engaged in a great race against time. The big question of our age is not whether the world will ever be one, but rather just what form the one world will take when it comes. Are we on the road to totalitarianism or democracy, regimentation or freedom, materialism or spirituality, master-race ethics or those of the brotherhood of man? This big question is being decided NOW. Those forces which drive ahead NOW with the greatest strength and the greatest wisdom will shape the destiny of the world. Freemasonry must take a positive stand in today's world picture. In many countries of the world Freemasonry has been liquidated because it teaches the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Let us be alert; let us safeguard the priceless heritage that is ours.

I believe that Freemasonry has a great message of hope for the people of the world and, particularly, for those under the heel of ruthless aggressors. Her ancient background and teachings, which have come down to us through the ages, garnered with the wisdom and philosophies of great ideals, offer inspiration and promise for the present day.

While world conditions are chaotic and millions of people are on the verge of starvation we, in this land, enjoy unprecedented prosperity and luxury and in no other part of the land have we such great opportunity as in this fair Province of Alberta. We are, therefore, inclined to be complacent and forgetful of the needs of others but we should not be over-confident that what has happened in other countries cannot happen within our own borders. We have great material wealth but what of our spiritual riches?

The tragic character of the world picture at the present time must not lead us to either hys-

teria or despair but should rather be a challenge calling forth the best within us. "Only those ships return to port", says an old maxim, "that first put out to sea". How often men have waited vainly for opportunity and success, scarcely realizing that without faithful, active service there can be no reward. From Holy Writ we receive the following significant doctrine: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again".

Men are not easily convinced of the Truth and cannot always be led to think aright. The craft and subtleties of the human intellect conjure up mists to cloud even the clearest vision. The spirit of Freemasonry should be as the spirit of a strong man, neither cast down by calamity nor elated by success. We should remember that ours is a struggle and a march toward Light, that the only worthwhile conquest is the conquest of mind over mind. Our Order is dedicated to economize the blind force of the people through the annihilation of apathy and ignorance, poverty, and the degradation which comes of ages-old servitude to a system invoked and perpetuated by the tyrants of the past and present and made possible by the indolence and the stolid ignorance of the people themselves.

As a Fraternity I am not suggesting that we take political sides in the struggle of the world today but, as individuals, we must be prepared to practise outside the lodge those excellent precepts which are ever inculcated within it so that when anyone is said to be a Mason the world at large may know that he is one responsive to the needs of others and I believe that this applies not only in the home, in the community, but among the nations of the world.

I call on all Freemasons throughout the Jurisdiction to re-dedicate themselves anew to the great teachings and Principles of our Order so that we may stand like a bulwark against the advancing hordes of irreligious ideologies, and by the aid of the Great Architect of the Universe we may drive back "into the pit of darkness the foul fiends that blight this else happy earth" and, by so doing, we will give liberty to the oppressed and freedom to the downtrodden.

Our purpose as Freemasons is to inspire the individual and promote the growth of knowledge to the end that Man may become spiritually fit and mentally qualified to govern himself with the wisdom and the equity that is of God and, when one is asked, "What is Freemasonry?" we may say:

"In the home it is kindness;
In business it is honesty;
In Society it is helpfulness;
In work it is burden-bearing;
Towards the wandering it is seeking
Towards the strong it is trust
Towards the penitent it is forgiveness;
Towards the unfortunate it is hope;
Towards ourselves it is self-discipline

Towards the State it is self-sacrifice and service;
Towards Humanity, it is mankind, a way of life,
Towards God, it is reverence, love and obedience;
And the foundation stone, the undergirding
motive in all our Masonic Degrees, is the
spirit of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth".

M. W. Bro. H. B. MACDONALD,
Grand Master, Alberta.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

As adopted by the United Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society, adhering to its own Landmarks. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and none of its incomes inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind.

It is benevolent in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty.

It is educational in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonials a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law.

It is religious in that it teaches monotheism, the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a lodge is in session, reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonial, and to its brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not sectarian or theological.

It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may gather in numbers thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship, and of charity.

Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community. Thus it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility; enlightens them as to those things which make for human welfare, and inspires them with the feeling of charity, or good will, toward all mankind which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action.

Masonry abhors Communism as being repugnant to its conception of the dignity of the individual personality, destructive of the basic rights which are the Divine heritage of all men and inimical to the fundamental Masonic tenet of faith in God.

It is just like an organ. There are white keys and black keys; and both are needed to produce great harmonies and wonderful music. So it is with the races of mankind; all are needed, and God has a place for every man, no matter what color his skin may be.

—James Aggrey.

Without a humble imitation of the Divine Author of our religion, we can never hope to be a happy nation.

—George Washington.

THE BLACK BALL

The question which has received marked attention from Masonic writers seems to be the use and abuse of the black ball. Nearly every Masonic journal that comes to hand gives expression of opinion, either original or endorsed. There is one consideration that should not be overlooked. The black ball is indispensable, and the unanimous ballot should obtain. Were it otherwise, the Masonic Lodge would be but a rendezvous for unprincipled schemers and pot-house politicians, a club for high rollers and "jolly good fellows". The black ball is necessary to protect the lodge from the presence of undesirable material, and it should be, and generally is, used for that wise and salutary purpose. Every member of the lodge has an undeniable right to a choice of ballot, and, having that choice, he should exercise its right to cast his ballot according to the dictates of his own conscience. The black ball may sometimes be cast through spite and malice, but the instances are rare. Who shall decide as to a brother's motives? From an experience of nearly forty years of devotion to Masonry, the writer ventures the assertion that, where one good man has been rejected through sheer malice many unprincipled applicants have been admitted through neglect of duty. When a black ball has been cast, the wise and broadminded brother remains silent while the superficial brother makes haste to denounce the act—a verification of the old adage: "Still waters run deep, but babbling brooks are noisy". There are those who seem to think that injustice has been done to the applicant, and they do not hesitate to say so both in and out of the lodge room. In behalf of propriety and common sense the thumbscrews of condemnation should be promptly turned upon such effusive babbling. The applicant has the right of application only. All other rights are vested in the lodge and the brethren. The applicant seeks admission under the solemn avowal that he is unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives; that he desires to receive light and knowledge, and to be serviceable to his fellowman. If the result of the investigation by the committee and the brethren prove that his life has been accord with his pretensions, there will be little doubt as to the welcome that awaits him; but if the investigation be not satisfactory, his request will be kindly and politely denied. Masonry is not gratifying the vanity of men who are anxious to display its emblems to the world in order that they may reap some supposed benefits, nor is it opening its doors to those who wish to use the symbolic lodge as a gateway to so-called "higher degrees". Not a word uncomplimentary to Capitular, Templar or Scottish Masonry should be spoken. The lessons of their degrees are beautiful and impressive to him who has a corresponding receptivity. But a river can never rise above its source. The superstructure must always depend upon the foundation. The Blue Lodge is the source, the foundation of all, and

to cherish its principles and protect its welfare should be the sweetest care of every good Mason. He may have received all the degrees that could be conferred upon him, and have trodden the path that leads to sun-crowned heights, yet if he loves Masonry for the beautiful lessons that make good men wiser and better, he will turn to his Blue Lodge with a fondness akin to the love he cherishes for his own home.

—The Victoria Craftsman.

YELLOWKNIFE LODGE No. 162, N.W.T.

M. W. Bro. H. B. Macdonald, Grand Master, accompanied by M. W. Bro. George Moore, P.G.M., Grand Secretary, M. W. Bro. Sam Harris, P.G.M., Editor of the Bulletin, and R. W. Bros. W. Betts and Chas E. Garnett, P.D.D.G.M.'s visited Yellowknife Lodge on Monday, June 27th last.

Great and pleasing progress has been made by this Lodge since it was Constituted two years ago, a membership of 18 has grown to 66. This Lodge now owns its splendidly appointed Lodge Room and the members have furnished and agreed to maintain an attractive ward in the new Red Cross Hospital. The work of the members was fully demonstrated in the conferring of a degree on the occasion of this visit and it is the opinion of the writer Yellowknife Lodge in view of its isolated location deserves great credit for the splendid progress it has made and our M. W. Grand Master was both pleased and satisfied with his official visit to this isolated Lodge located on the north shore of Great Slave Lake in the North West Territories.

S.H.

PROFANE HAS SPECIAL MASONIC MEANING

A brother asks why those who are not Masons should be called "profane", since there are very many persons who are not members of the Order who are by no means profane. The brother confuses two very different meanings of the word. It is derived from two Latin words, "pro" meaning before, and "fanum" meaning temple.

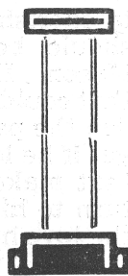
The word "profane" therefore means before or outside of the temple. In its present day ordinary sense, it means one who, withholding himself from sacred things, has no reverence for God or holiness. In this sense it is a term of reproach, and is a comparatively recent definition of the word.

In Masonic language it means one who is without the temple of Masonry, and in this sense is derived from its ancient meaning of "one not initiated into the inner mysteries". Masonry is an ancient institution, and uses many words in a sense now largely disused. This is one of the proofs of its antiquity and is a badge of distinction.

—Masonic Bulletin.



Between the Pillars



A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF GRAND LODGE

The 44th Annual Communication of Grand Lodge which was held this year in the City of Calgary on June 8th and 9th has passed into history. Grand Lodge was presided over in a very able and efficient manner by M. W. Bro. Dr. W. A. Henry, Grand Master. The usual large number of brethren were in attendance although a little less in numbers than last year. It was again a pleasure to meet old friends who have attended Grand Lodge for many years, also to meet younger members who were attending Grand Lodge for the first time. There were 467 members of Grand Lodge present with a total vote of 626 votes; 40 Master Masons were also present.

It is rather regrettable that only 13 of the 18 District Deputy Grand Masters were present although all of the 18 District Deputy Grand Masters-elect were present to be installed. Thirty-one Chartered Lodges were without representation which is many more than should be. There are now 153 Chartered Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 163 at Mirror was Constituted during the year and Gateway Lodge U.D. at Edmonton received its Charter and will be Constituted in the near future.

During the year 839 new members were initiated into the Craft making a net increase of 609 members for the year, the membership as at December 31st, 1948, being 14,336 members. It appears there will be a gradual recession in membership, other Grand Lodges are also anticipating this.

Fifteen courtesy degrees were conferred for Alberta by Sister Grand Jurisdictions and 19 courtesy degrees conferred by Alberta for Sister Grand Jurisdictions. Seven Grand Representatives were appointed in Sister Grand Jurisdictions to represent Alberta and 9 Grand Representatives were appointed in Alberta to represent Sister Grand Jurisdictions.

The Benevolent Fund distributed \$7,221.04 during the year to 61 beneficiaries; there are now 50 beneficiaries. No calls were received for Masonic War Distress or Rehabilitation.

A handbook "For use of the Master of the Lodge" was sent to all Lodges. This is a handbook used in other Grand Lodges.

It was recommended that official recognition be extended to the Grand Lodges of Sweden and Holland and an exchange of Grand Representatives be requested. Requests for recognition from several Grand Lodges in South America was held over for the time being.

The Grand Master attended 16 of the 18 District Meetings and the Grand Secretary was in attendance at all of them.

One ruling was made by the Grand Master during the year, namely, that a collective ballot was not permissible but individual ballot boxes with the name of each individual applicant placed thereon was permissible. This is considered as being a separate or individual ballot.

A motion that a Grand or Travelling Lecturer be appointed was decided in the negative.

A message of loyalty was forwarded to His Majesty the King who is a Past Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The Special Committee appointed by the Grand Master to investigate and report of Grand Lodge adopting the Boys' Farm project reported in the negative, their report was accepted and adopted by Grand Lodge without discussion, the Committee then being discharged.

The Board of General Purposes decided to limit the number of members of the several committees, excepting the Jurisprudence Committee, to 5 members.

The following were our guests at Grand Lodge this year: R. W. Bro. Ponds, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of North Dakota; M. W. Bro. Harry Coddington and R. W. Bro. Chas. Cole, Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master respectively of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba; M. W. Bro. Fred C. Wilson and R. W. Bro. Robt. A. Tate, Grand Master and Grand Secretary respectively of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan; and R. W. Bro. Chas. C. Elliott, Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey.

Our guest speaker at the Annual Banquet of Grand Lodge held on Wednesday evening was Bro. Rev. T. R. Davies, M.C., Minister of the Highlands United Church, Edmonton, and a member of Empire Lodge No. 63.

The following Grand Lodge Officers were duly elected and installed for this year:

M. W. Bro. H. B. Macdonald, Calgary, Gr. Master
R. W. Bro. L. W. Bond, Irricana, Deputy G.M.
R. W. Bro. W. F. Empey, Edmonton, Sr. G. Ward
R. W. Bro. H. E. Howard, Calgary, Jr. G. Warden
R. W. Bro. A. J. Davis, Calgary, Gr. Treasurer
M. W. Bro. G. Moore, P.G.M., Calgary, Grand Sec.
R. W. Bro. Rev. P. Dawson, Champion, G. Chapl'n
R. W. Bro. P. Fielding, Calgary, Grand Tyler

These officers were installed by the retiring Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Dr. W. A. Henry, assisted by M. W. Bros. Geo. Moore, Sam Harris and F. P. Galbraith. The District Deputy Grand Masters were installed by the incoming Grand Master, M. W. Bro. H. B. Macdonald. This completed another prosperous year in the annals of Freemasonry in the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. Grand Lodge will convene next year in the City of Edmonton on June 14th and 15th, 1950.