



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: Sam Harris, P.G.M.

Freemasonry's Place in the World and Its Appeal to the Youth of Today

Excerpts from papers read at the recent District Meetings.—Ed.

W. Bro. J. A. McKay, District No. 2.

The world is progressing. Masonry, we believe, is keeping up with it. Its members today are men of intellect, each educated in his particular field, and all possessing the qualifications Masonry demands. No organization can expect to progress without having a duty to perform, and a reputation to live up to. Masonry has been a leading light down through the ages, and today it holds a dignified and respected place in our communities.

Bro. T. B. Thomas-Peters, District No. 3.

I believe that the youth of today is acutely alive to the need of the world for those principles for which we stand: "Brotherly Love, Belief and Truth." I believe that the right kind of youth will eagerly grasp the opportunity of becoming associated with an organization which is actively promoting such principles, and will gladly accept the guidance of those experienced in Freemasonry in training himself to live those same principles.

Bro. C. E. Blakeney, District No. 5.

The Mason is a Builder. Not only are the structures erected by the operative craftsman more enduring than other of man's temporal works but the foundation stones of speculative masonry are indestructible. They have and may again be temporarily hidden by rubble, but are bound to retain their ability to support a glorious superstructure . . . The more deeply imbued the new, as well as the older mason becomes with our philosophy, the more widely he reads, and the more he is challenged to think and to apply his new-found knowledge, the better he becomes fitted as a living stone of our masonic structure.

W. Bro. Percy Wray, District No. 6.

Freemasonry has the solution for peace which lies in teaching and also practising our first tenet — Brotherly Love — not only within the confines of our order but amongst all men, impressing all mankind with the principles of Truth, Justice and Brotherly Love. Freemasonry's place in the world today is to strive to replace the fear, hate, suspicion and intoler-

ance which is shaking the very foundations of civilization, with Goodwill, Understanding, Confidence and Tolerance.

Bro. F. R. Erick Mulder, District No. 6.

To the majority of youth approaching manhood, Freemasonry is a secret sect in which they are not very interested. They have no knowledge of what it is or what it does. People who know just don't discuss it with them and they are left with a vagueness and mystery in their minds. To the son of a Mason, the situation is vastly different and in the normal course of events we find him knocking at the Lodge door. There are however, many seriously minded young men, who through no fault of their own, never come in close contact with Freemasonry and are thereby denied the benefit of its teachings and associations and the Craft loses a good candidate.

W. Bro. Dr. J. M. Key, District No. 7.

How can the Appeal of Masonry be made stronger to the Youth of today? By each mason living and acting as he should. By moving quietly and modestly in the spheres of life, fulfilling his duties as a man, a subject, a husband and as a father. Who is pious, benevolent and aids his fellow-men without self-interest, whose heart beats warm for friendship, who does not despair in vicissitude, nor be presumptuous in fortune, and is resolute in the hour of danger. A man who is free from superstition and infidelity, who feels and adores the higher destination of man, and who will protect innocence and virtue. A man who is loved by noble-minded men, respected by his superiors and revered by his subordinates. A man who presents the same sterling characteristics under all circumstances, whether in private or public. Such lives appeal to all classes of people and especially to Youth whose great desire is to improve and excel. Therefore let us perform our allotted task whilst it is yet day.

R.W. Bro. W. H. Chappell, District No. 8.

We have an obligation to our Youth to accept responsibility . . . Let us look around among our younger Masons today, and, in our humble

opinion, they are very few, if any, who are not better men and citizens than they were before they joined our society; they believe in that well known philosophy "I believe that I should live so that outsiders may feel that Masonry is worthwhile." Youth has always had a desire to join our fraternity and we cannot see any reason why this should not continue in the future.

R.W. Bro. W. Stone, District No. 9.

Masonry's appeal to Youth is a problem that is hard to answer. In the first place the youth has to reach the age of Manhood before he can become a Mason, the Constitution provides he must be a man of twenty-one years before he can be admitted into Masonry, this leaves only one way in which we can make an appeal to him and that is by our own lives as Masons, we should set a good example and live up to the teachings of our order and show the Youth there is something worthwhile to be found in Masonry.

R.W. Bro. D. D. McQueen, District No. 11.

The Youth of today is a pretty well educated young man, educated not only in an academic sense, but in the sense of experience in facing life's grim realities in the great conflict just ended. They seem to grow up overnight and are taking their rightful place in our midst. As a rule they are intelligent and eager in their approach to the consideration of the great principles of life. What a wonderful opportunity we have, brethren, in the assisting of their education.

R.W. Bro. W. E. Briggs, District No. 12.

If it is a fact that young men are not attracted to the Craft, what is the reason for this condition? It might be mentioned that the initiation fee is too high for this condition. I would advise against this because we are all prone to value things at the price we pay for them, and I believe that as the buying power of the dollar these days has been lowered and wages are higher the fee should be increased rather than lowered. Another reason, perhaps, is that there are so many other activities to which a young man may expend his energies, especially in the larger centres, that Freemasonry does not seem to him to be needed or necessary . . . Youth needs more models and less critics.

W. Bro. D. F. Van Blarcom, District No. 14.

As an individual I favour sticking to our ancient usages and customs by appealing to the youth of today through the established agencies, and particularly recommend the Church. There the individual brother may work as a member of the Church of his own choice to help put it back in its rightful place in society. How much more wholesome would be the efforts and the results if we were to strive through the Church as our agent to build recreational centres and youth organizations. Such are the objectives of the Church, and, in fact, were considered its duty until other interests began taking up so much of the individual's time.

W. Bro. J. P. Ferguson, District No. 15.

There is one danger that we ought to think about. Does the Craft supply sufficient active work to interest young men permanently? They may grow tired of an organization, however high its ideals, that does nothing. Mere contemplation is not the habit of young men. Participation in some enterprise that requires action is more likely to hold their interest. We should apply our minds to that.

R.W. Bro. E. A. Rocch, District No. 15.

While I admit that Masonry is not a charitable organization, yet I think we should do more than we have in the past along some of these lines. I think we should do more for the good of the community in which we live, in this way we would appeal more to the youth of our organization. Youth is not satisfied to coast along, they must be doing something and I think we should have something tangible for the youth of our order to aim at.

Bro. H. Rollans, District No. 17.

Freemasonry has stood the test of time. It has come down through the ages gaining strength in each generation. It is founded on a safe and sure foundation, and it will continue to thrive and flourish unless these foundations are undermined by well meaning but foolish men who try to change Masonry to fit the changing Times. Freemasonry needs no change in itself to fit the changing conditions of the world, nor does it need, nor would it be wise to make changes for the sake of attracting to itself immature and curious youth. The youth of today is the man of tomorrow, and it is the man of tomorrow to whom we must look to carry on our Ancient Order. Let us continue as we have, making the MAN a better man and the youth of today will be the man of tomorrow who will come knocking on our doors and seeking admission to an order of which he learned nothing but good in his youth.

Bro. A. Mansell, District No. 18.

It would appear to me that now is a perfect time to carry forward the ideas and philosophy of our Craft to all points of the world and as a result make our world a better place in which to live. True enough it is not the policy or practice of our lodges or brethren to solicit members. However, each and every one of us can do just this without saying a word by showing to the world around us that we believe in equality of men, tolerance of the opinion of others, friendship, civil and religious liberty and patriotism for our native land.

Our delight in any particular study, art or science rises in proportion to the application which we bestow upon it. Thus, what was at first an exercise becomes at length an entertainment.—Joseph Addison.

Proper application or demonstration of Masonic principles of living can help greatly in establishing the kind of world we want to live in.

FREE WILL AND ACCORD

There is one peculiar feature in the Masonic institution that should commend it to the discerning mind — Masonic membership should be sought by the aspirant and never should be solicited or offered by any member, under any circumstances. In some organizations, honoured institutions in themselves proselytising is the proper thing. But not so with us; quite the contrary. Whoever seeks admission to our ranks must first be prepared, within himself. Not only must he become endowed with the necessary moral qualifications but he must come also entirely uninfluenced by friends and unbiased by unworthy motives. For this is a landmark of our Order. And nothing is more irritating to a good Mason than to see this landmark violated by a well-meaning but misguided Brother. For — make no mistake about it — it has been, and still is, often violated. Without a doubt some Brothers, thoroughly enjoying their own membership, and in a misguided zeal to increase membership of the Institution, persuade a friend to come and partake and share the pleasures they themselves enjoy. Any Mason who so misunderstands the true policy of our Institution should be instructed by older and more experienced Brethren that it is absolutely against all of our laws and principles to ask any man to become a Mason, or to exercise any kind of influence over the minds of others — except by Masonic example and precept — by the observance of which they may be induced to ask admission into our ranks. We must not seek members; we are to be sought. And even though this were not Masonic law, policy alone would dictate adherence to the voluntary usage. We need have no worries about suffering from lack of membership. Our danger lies in the too ready acceptance of undesirable material for membership. When too little attention is paid to the proper selection of candidates, the Institution will suffer as a result, for the tree is known by its fruit. There can therefore be no excuse for the practice of persuading candidates, and every hope of safety in avoiding such a practice.

We must not seek aspirants! Rather, we must be sought by them.

—“The Masonic World.”

This issue of the Bulletin completes our Fifteenth year of publication, whilst we have an increase of 13 per cent this year we have not yet attained our objective of every member receiving a copy of the Bulletin. I am glad to report our objective is becoming more nearly an accomplished fact and it requires only the efforts of a few lodges to attain this end.

The 45th Annual Communication of Grand Lodge will convene in the Masonic Temple, Edmonton, at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday morning, June 14th next. It is hoped that all W.M.'s and Wardens will be in attendance.

S.H.

AT REST

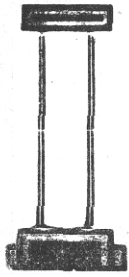
We regret to announce the passing of our Grand Tyler, R.W. Bro. Percy Fielding, who passed away in the General Hospital, Calgary, on Monday, April 24th last, at the ripe old age of 83 years. His passing was not unexpected as he had been in failing health for some time. Bro. Fielding was born November 16th, 1866, in Dover, England, and went to Australia at an early age. Bro. Fielding was first elected Grand Tyler of our Grand Lodge in 1917 and continuously re-elected every year. The writer was present when he was first elected as Grand Tyler and it was a pleasure to meet him at Grand Lodge every year since that time in addition to numerous occasions throughout the years. His passing severs another link with the past.

Bro. Fielding had an unique Masonic career. He was initiated in Lodge Umberumberka No. 141, New South Wales, on January 27th, 1893, dimitted in 1896 to Lodge Coolgardie No. 2543 E.C., West Australia, later affiliating with Lodge Golden Arrow No. 895, S.C. and was invested as S.W. of that Lodge in 1902. Was appointed Deputy Grand Standard Bearer in 1903. Affiliated with Lodge Alexandra No. 64, Western Australia in 1905 and served that Lodge as S.W. in 1908. Coming to Canada in 1909 he affiliated with our Hope Lodge No. 38 at Manville severing his connection with his three Lodges in Australia. He served Hope Lodge No. 38 as its W.M. in 1915 and was elected as Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Alberta at its Annual Communication held in Banff in 1917. He was elected a Life Member of Hope Lodge No. 38 in 1931.

Bro. Fielding's career in Capitular Masonry is similar to that in Craft Masonry. He was Exalted in Goldfield R. A. Chapter No. 279, S.C. in 1902. Installed as First Principal Z of Golden Arrow Chapter No. 306, S.C. in 1905, and again as First Principal Z of Mount Margaret Chapter No. 9, Western Australia in 1907, demitting from these Chapters in 1909. He served as an appointed officer of Grand Chapter, Western Australia, in 1907 and 1908. In 1910 he affiliated with North Star R. A. Chapter No. 2 in Edmonton, later affiliating with Vermilion R. A. Chapter No. 14. Was appointed as Grand Representative for the Grand Chapter of West Australia in 1922. Was greeted as a member of Zadok Council No. 3, Royal and Select Masters, Cryptic Rite of Western Canada in 1945 and was elected as Grand Sentinel in 1947.

An honourable and active career is now closed. May our old friend and brother rest in peace.

S.H.



Between the Pillars



A WAITING PERIOD

We have referred to this subject in previous issues and have emphasized the value of taking time to confer degrees in the Craft Lodge. There is a great deal lost and nothing whatever gained when we rush our young initiates pell mell to the culminating degree which signifies that another young man or group of young men have been raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

Still the rush goes on and one would imagine that some Worshipful Masters are more concerned about the total number of new members he can raise during his tenure as Master than the duty and responsibility he owes to all the other members of his Lodge.

At the Annual Conference of Grand Masters held in Washington, D.C., last winter, M.W. Bro. Hugh M. Craig, Grand Master of Texas, delivered an address on the subject "Should there be a waiting period between degrees?" In part Bro. Craig had this to say: "I should like to debate the affirmative side of this question for the reason, I personally feel that there should be a waiting period between degrees and one even longer than that of one lunar month which now obtains in Texas

"The two great bulwarks of the Fraternity, those which protect its purity and integrity, are the proper qualifications of its candidates and the necessary proficiency of a Mason who seeks advancement to a higher degree. I hesitate to say which is the more harmful — to admit one who is not qualified, or to promote a candidate who is ignorant of his first lessons. One affects the external, the other the internal character of the Craft. The one brings discredit upon the Institution among the profane, who too often regard us with distrust, envy and dislike; the other introduces ignorance and incapacity into our membership and dishonours the science of Masonry in our own eyes. The one builds our walls with imperfect and worthless stones, which mar the outward beauty and impair the strength of our temple, the other fill our inner sanctums with disorder and confusion, leaving the building incapable of its destined uses.

"A too hurried advancement is often attended with serious results so far as the candidate is concerned. There is no 'royal road' to Masonic perfection. A knowledge of its tenets, philosophy and science and in consequence an appreciation of its beauties, is acquired only by long and diligent study. Masonry does not offer too much to the average observer to attract his attention or hold his interest; as a matter of fact it makes no attempt to do so, but by insisting upon the candidate taking the time necessary to become 'pro-

ficient' he of necessity is given the opportunity to behold some of the beauties of the temple between the outer porch and the sanctuary, and is consequently imbued with a desire to go beyond the fundamental groundwork given in the ritual.

"These are the brethren upon whose shoulders rest the future of the Masonic Fraternity. They are the ones who by being required to 'take their time' have formed an admiration for the institution, love for its principles, and appreciation of the great and glorious role the Order has played and must continue to play in this age of Godless confusion. He learns that Masonry is a believer in and a conservator of divine truth, an exponent of the dignity of Man and the Fatherhood of God. I do not mean to say that all who 'wait the time with patience' are thereby created Masons 'par excellence', but I will say this, that by far the great majority of the Masonic leaders of tomorrow will come from those who by measured and patient steps have passed through the various apartments of the Temple.

"That our founding fathers believed in sufficient time elapsing between the degrees is attested by the fact that the earliest, or I should say, oldest Masonic document extant, provided that if a Master took an apprentice, he must teach him 'ably'. Similar provisions are to be found in practically all of the old manuscripts. Of course, there was a corresponding obligation on the part of the apprentice to learn the work, and until he did so, he could not advance. We recognize this principle to be equitable when we ask if the candidate has made 'suitable proficiency in the preceding degree'. The answer to that question should be an unequivocal 'he has'. To do this honestly requires that the necessary amount of time be given between the degrees to enable him to qualify.

"Frankly, anyone who devotes himself to the acquisition of a science must become proficient in its elementary instructions before he can comprehend its higher branches. This truth is so self-evident as to require no argument. Speculative Masonry is a science, therefore it follows as the night follows the day, that the qualifications for a higher degree is proficiency in the preceding one, which brings us right back to the predicate laid down previously. "Time!" It is of the essence. Without time between the degrees we cannot hope to inculcate in our candidates the knowledge of the esoteric side of Masonry, without which they are merely 'members', not Masons."

—The Ashlar, Australia.

The grandest melodies ever played are kind deeds done by one to another, and the sweetest music ever heard is that which is played by the white hands of loving kindness upon the keyboard of the human heart. — Masonic Pocket Magazine.

No one can be robbed of the joy and privilege of being a co-worker in building a better and happier world.—Dr. Woodfin.