

Our Fiftieth Anniversary



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Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.

OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE

Our Fiftieth Anniversary is now a matter of history, it being held on Friday, October 14th at 2:30 p.m. in the Masonic Temple in the City of Edmonton with our Grand Master, M. W. Brother S. Carl Heckbert presiding. The attendance was all that could be desired it being the largest in our history.

M. W. Bro. Heckbert welcomed the following distinguished visitors: R. W. Bro. Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis, Past Junior Grand Warden, United Grand Lodge of England; R. W. Bro. H. Martyn, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the Province of Ontario; M. W. Bro. the Hon. Geoffrey Stevens, P.G.M. Nova Scotia; M. W. Bros. F. J. Burd, P.G.H., Donald McGugan, P.G.M., and J. H. N. Morgan, P.G.M. (Grand Secretary) British Columbia; M. W. Bro. D. G. P. Sanderson, P.G.M., Quebec; M. W. Bro. E. E. Emmett, Grand Master and M. W. Bros. Wm. Douglas, P.G.M., Hon. S. H. Fahrni, P.G.M., and T. C. Jackson, P.G.M. Grand Secretary, Manitoba; M. W. Bros. Guy Hummell, P.G.M. and Robt. A. Tate, P.G.M. (Grand Secretary) Saskatchewan; M. W. Bro. Dr. Louis A. Legett, Grand Master, Louisiana, M. W. Bro. Ralph M. Lehr, Grand Master and R. W. Bro. George A. Avery, Grand Secretary, Pennsylvania; R. W. Bro. C. Elliot, new Jersey and V. W. Bro. Frank E. Van Demark, Junior Grand Deacon, Montana.

The Grand Lodge of Norway was represented by R. W. Bro. Hans Folvolden, Denmark by R. W. Bro. W. Frantzen, Netherlands by V. W. Bro. C. M. Macleod and Puerto Rico by R. W. Bro. David Patterson and M. W. Bro. Robt. A. Tate, (Sask.).

His Honour Dr. J. J. Bowlen, Lieutenant Governor, Hon. E. C. Manning, Premier of Alberta and His Worship Bro. W. Hawrelak, Mayor of Edmonton were also present and received officially by the Grand Master.

Thirty-eight veteran members of Grand Lodge each with more than 50 years membership in the Craft were royally received including R. W. Bro. W. J. Kirby with a membership of 68 years.

Three lovely pedestal cloths were presented to Grand Lodge by the eighteen constituent lodges who formed the Grand Lodge of Alberta in 1905. These cloths were duly dedicated by the Grand Chaplain.

A Service of Thanksgiving was conducted by the Grand Chaplain, R. W. Bro. Rev. Canon W. H. Morgan. This was indeed an inspiring service and greatly enjoyed.

M. W. Bro. Gilbert M. Blackstock, Q.C., Past Grand Master gave the address of the afternoon taking as his subject "Fifty Years of Freemasonry

in the Grand Lodge of Alberta." A group photograph was taken as a souvenir of this memorable occasion.

The evening banquet was held in the Macdonald Hotel, 750 members being present, many, many faces one had not seen for several years, we were indeed glad to see them once more. The guest speaker being the M. W. Bro. Wm. Douglas, Past Grand Master and present Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba who traced the history of Freemasonry from the forming of the United Grand Lodge of England to the present time in the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

Visitors and others, including our Lieutenant Governor Dr. J. J. Bowlen expressed their pleasure of being present. This very wonderful gathering was brought to a most successful close by an inspiring address by Our Grand Master, M. W. Bro. S. Carl Heckbert. This was the most momentous and outstanding communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, together with Fifty Years of Masonic endeavour in the Province of Alberta, upon this record may members of the future continue to build and prosper during the many happy years to come.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Alberta on October 12th, 1905 the Lodges in the North West Territories were under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. In the spring of 1905 Medicine Hat Lodge No. 31 (now 2) took the initiative towards the formation of the Grand Lodge of Alberta by requesting Bow River Lodge No. 28 (now No. 1), the oldest Lodge in Alberta, to call a Convention, which was held in Calgary on May 25th, 1905. It was the unanimous opinion of those present that a Grand Lodge should be formed in the Province of Alberta. As far as the records show there is only one delegate to this Convention who is living today: V. W. Bro. James Cook, then a P.M. of Medicine Hat Lodge No. 31 and presently a member of Creston Lodge No. 54, G.R.B.C.

There were at that time 17 Chartered Lodges and one under Dispensation within the boundaries of the proposed Province. Seventeen of these 18 Lodges were represented by 79 delegates. These 18 Lodges are presently numbered as follows on the Grand Register of Alberta:

Bow River No. 28, now No. 1—Calgary,
 Medicine Hat No. 2, now No. 2—Medicine Hat,
 Alberta No. 57, now No. 3—Fort Macleod,
 North Star No. 4, now No. 4—Lethbridge,
 Cascade No. 42, now No. 5—Banff,
 Spitzie No. 45, now No. 6—Pincher Creek,
 Edmonton No. 53, now No. 7—Edmonton,
 Innisfail No. 58, now No. 8—Innisfail,
 Perfection No. 60, now No. 9—Calgary,
 Eureka No. 65, now No. 10—Lacombe,
 Acacia No. 66, now No. 11—Edmonton,
 Red Deer No. 73, now No. 12—Red Deer,
 Victoria No. 76, now No. 13—Fort Saskatchewan,
 Jasper No. 78, now No. 14—Edmonton,
 Wetaskiwin No. 83, now No. 15—Wetaskiwin,

Mountain View No. 85, now No. 16—Olds,
 Nanton No. 97, now No. 17—Nanton,
 Britannia No. 98, now No. 18—Ponoka.

Another Convention was held in Calgary on July 6th, 1905 at which only eight Lodges were represented, there not being a majority, the Convention was adjourned.

Alberta was proclaimed a Province on September 1st, 1905 from portions of the Districts of Athabasca, Saskatchewan, Assiniboia and Alberta and is bounded on the east by the Fourth Meridian, on the south by the 49th Parallel, on the west by the Rocky Mountains and on the north by the 60th Parallel, this being the southern boundary of the North West Territories, which extends north to the Arctic Ocean. The geographical centre of our Province, north and south, is near Meanook, some 80 miles north of Edmonton, where we are in Session.

Although Bow River Lodge No. 28 (now No. 1) is the oldest Lodge, the first Lodge instituted in Alberta was Saskatchewan No. 17 in Edmonton, its Dispensation was dated January 12th, 1882, its Charter February 16th, 1883. The Officers named being, W. M. Philip Heiminek; S.W., James Kernahan; J. W. Josiah Robert Burton. There were 13 Charter members. This Lodge functioned until January 11th, 1888, when the Secretary Bro. Francis D. Wilson wrote the Grand Lodge of Manitoba advising that the Officers and members had decided to return the Charter as they found it impossible to carry on. Red Deer Lodge No. 59 was instituted June 1st, 1894, Chartered June 14th, 1893 and its Charter lapsed June 1st, 1897. Thus our first and one other early Lodge had a very short existence.

When the Grand Lodge of Alberta was formed on October 12th, 1905 there were 18 Lodges with a membership of 1,169. At December 31st, 1954 there were 159 Chartered Lodges with a membership of 17,334.

On August 12th, 1905 Rev. Canon George H. Hogbin, W.M. of Bow River Lodge No. 28, issued a Notice calling a Convention to be held in Calgary on Wednesday, October 12th, 1905 for the purpose of forming and establishing a Grand Lodge in the newly created Province of Alberta. Seventeen of the 18 Lodges were represented by 43 members carrying a total of 79 votes. As far as is known there is only one of these Delegates alive to-day, R. W. Bro. Dr. C. E. Smythe, the first D.D.G.M. of Medicine Hat District. As the register of Master Masons attending is not available it cannot be checked. W. Bro. Hogbin presided at this Convention with W. Bro. Dr. George Macdonald as Secretary. M. W. Bro. W. G. Scott, Grand Master of the Grande Lodge of Manitoba was present. It was proposed by R. W. Bro. N. J. Lindsay, seconded by W. Bro. J. Hinchcliffe and carried unanimously that the Grand Lodge of Alberta be formed and Constituted.

The following were our first Grand Lodge Officers:

Grand Master—M. W. Bro. Dr. Geo. Macdonald,
 (1), Calgary.

Deputy Grand Master—R. W. Bro. H. C. Taylor, (7), Edmonton.

Senior Grand Warden—R. W. Bro. T. F. English, (11), Edmonton.

Junior Grand Warden—R. W. Bro. O. W. Kealey, (2), Medicine Hat.

Grand Treasurer—R. W. Bro. E. N. Brown, (1), Calgary.

Grand Secretary—R. W. J. J. Dunlop, (14), Edmonton.

Grand Registrar—R. W. Bro. J. Hinchliffe, (12), Red Deer.

Grand Chaplain—R. W. Bro. Rev. J. S. Chivers, (4), Lethbridge.

It was decided to divide the Province into three Masonic Districts, Calgary, Medicine Hat and Edmonton. The first District Deputy Grand Masters were: R. W. Bro. J. T. Macdonald, Calgary; R. W. Bro. Dr. C. E. Smythe, Medicine Hat; R. W. Bro. A. R. Dickson, Wetaskiwin.

Following the election of Officers, M. W. Bro. W. G. Scott, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba assumed the Chair and declared the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M. to be in Ample Form and, assisted by M. W. Bro. Dr. E. A. Braithwaite, proceeded to install and invest the Officers. M. W. Bro's W. G. Scott and Dr. E. A. Braithwaite were elected Honorary Past Grand Masters of the new Grand Lodge.

The Seal adopted for the Grand Lodge of Alberta was the same as that of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, except that three Crowns were substituted for the Buffalo in the lower left hand corner.

Under the guidance and leadership of our Fifty Grand Masters, the Grand Lodge of Alberta has progressed and grown, each Grand Master has made his contribution to Grand Lodge and to Freemasonry as he thought best to do. Our Grand Lodge enjoys Fraternal Relations with all other Grand Lodges whose principles are in harmony with our own.

In 1935 the Grand Lodge of Alberta annexed that portion of the North West Territories lying to the west of the Fourth Meridian and east of the Yukon boundary. We now have a thriving Lodge—Yellowknife No. 162—in this territory.

During our existence there have been six Grand Secretaries, M. W. Brothers, J. J. Dunlop, Dr. George Macdonald, S. Y. Taylor, J. H. W. S. Kemmis and George Moore who all, unfortunately, have passed to that bourne from whence no traveller returns and our present Grand Secretary, R. W. Bro. E. H. Rivers. Twenty-five of our Past Grand Masters have also passed to their reward. Our present Grand Master is M. W. Bro. S. Carl Heckbert of Vermilion, Alberta.

It is a far cry from the day that Anthony Henday, the first white man to come to Alberta and to see the Rocky Mountains, in 1754, spent the winter of 1754/55 in an Indian Camp a few miles west of the present town of Innisfail and Peter Pond, who

cultivated the first land in 1778 on the banks of the Athabasca River about 40 miles south of Lake Athabasca and 400 miles north of Edmonton. If these pioneers could only return and see our Province now! The population of Alberta when our Grand Lodge was formed was approximately 175,000, the estimated population at the present time is 1,066,000. As our Province has progressed, so has Freemasonry. Truly our forefathers built better than they knew. It is for us to carry the torch and truths of Freemasonry to those who will come after us.

M. W. Bro. Sam Harris, P. G. M., Grand Historian

FAITH

Without faith we could do nothing. The proof of the continuation of reason is faith in human nature. Even a higher faculty than reason is this faith. Let me tell you: the social, moral and financial fabric is founded and grounded in some form of faith that has for object the betterment of the world.

A peculiar thing about faith is that it grows stronger when attacked hardest. When it is permitted to run smoothly and without opposition, it often becomes feeble.

Faith is at high tide when sorrow and grief are near, when famine and disease threaten, even when desolation overwhelms. It is lowest when the sun of prosperity and good health shines brightest. The deep and clear convictions of faith rule the world. If it were possible to obliterate faith, the entire spiritual system of this world would be destroyed and business bankrupt.

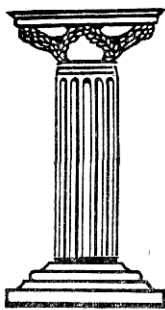
Faith is a big word and means much. It is the inward acceptance of God, confidence in others, trust in your partner and the continuation of reason. Past the pale of medicine and the realms of hope, we find the most beautiful and courageous characters on earth. And why do those destined to wasting diseases have hope? Because they have faith: "Through the dark of deity, frail humans hopefully march by Faith."

Bro. Charles Edward Caswell

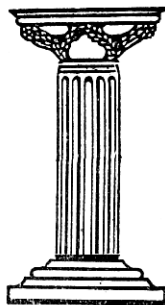
MASON'S DIGNITY

It should be understood that Freemasonry never encourages brethren to disclose their membership of this Fraternity to all and sundry whom they may meet in the walks of life. To parade it is undignified, and often leads to a brother's motive being misunderstood, if not misconstrued. It is better that brethren talk less about Freemasonry, and apply more of their energy to the demonstration of its ideals and principles in their conduct. Freemasonry has nothing to gain by its members publishing on the housetops that they have been received into its fold, but it will gain immensely if they will let it be seen that, having been brought face to face with its great ideals and teaching, their own lives have been enriched and ennobled. This is what the world wants to see.

Bro. Rev. Joseph Johnson, P.M.,
P. A. G. Chaplain, England.



Between the Pillars



INTEGRITY

Men seem to be born with a fighting instinct to preserve their well being. The human race would long ago have perished from the earth were it not for a dominant desire to remain intact, to continue in the path designed for mankind to travel, and to maintain our integrity at all costs.

We undoubtedly have a beautiful vision of the meaning of integrity. We, somehow, associate the word with the idea of trustworthiness, of dependability and honesty. We think of people standing four square to the world in all their dealings. We behold them as individuals who keep faith in their engagements, whose plan of life and purposes in dealing with others remain unbroken, and who pursue unflinchingly the standards of right living and good account. We all admire these individuals.

Up and down the pathway of life there are shining examples of this ideal. In the squalid shelter of the savage we find strains of true nobility. These primitive peoples willingly sacrifice their lives to preserve what they treasure as an ideal. In the humble cottage of the fisherman, the miner, the farmer, or the mountaineer may often be found the finest spirit of moral soundness and integrity. High and low, rich and poor, may share alike in the development and exemplification of this trait. The statesman, the millionaire, men of affairs, or those who hew wood and draw water may be devoid of this virtue or may excel in it.

We find various applications of this quality of living. With some it means the unerring keeping of appointments. With others it is the prompt meeting of obligations, and many folks are guided by the still small voice of conscience. With age there usually comes a stricter adherence to certain habits that have been developing through the years. Each of us is deficient in some respect for there is none perfect.

As Masons we can look at many notable examples of moral worth among our brethren, both ancient and modern. These are the leaders and molders of thought. They have set high standards for us to follow. The instance has been known where a Mason preferred to forfeit his life in defense of his integrity. Such instances have a meaning for us and can be applied symbolically to twentieth century life and conduct.

We are not all cast in the same mold. Environ-

ment, health, inborn characteristics will influence us as individuals. It is hardly correct for one man to say that he has pulled himself up by his boot straps and that others should do the same. Truly, we are the result of all the forces that have crowded in upon us. This very thought carries a great responsibility for us all as we begin to realize our place in the grand scheme of things, our duty in helping others and our opportunities to build a strong temple of humanity.

These outside factors do have an effect. But people can rise above their surroundings. One of the prize attributes of man is that he can determine his own course of action. Integrity goes hand in hand with high moral purpose, straight thinking, lofty idealism and a love of humanity. Given these basic qualifications, all of which can be developed, a Mason is equipped to attain the other skills of a good workman. This makes the way clear for all of us in the fine art of building the Temple.

Bro. Robert W. Tarbell



MASONRY'S WORK

For Freemasons the question comes back to the familiar "What came ye here to do?" To answer that question is not as difficult as might first appear. The work of Freemasonry in the world is already defined for it by its own history, its ritual, its philosophy, its constitutions and its landmarks. It cannot cease to be itself in order to become something else. Will it not be disastrous to introduce controversies into the life of our lodges, especially if they are of a political or religious nature? Long ago our Masonic forefathers learned a bitter lesson over again. If bigotry, passion and prejudice are turned loose, who can foretell what direction they will take. It sometimes happens that a man who sets fire to his neighbor's fields has his own burned over before the fire dies down.



THE GREAT PROBLEM

The problems in our present day social life are largely due to individual attitudes, and, in spite of our advancements in this twentieth century, the actions of the majority of people are controlled by ignorance, fear, bias, distrust, bigotry, envy and pride. Such forces within the individual naturally produce class consciousness, sectarianism, narrowness, racial prejudice and national snobbery. Thus the great problem confronting humanity is the mastery of these conflicting elements, which, if uncontrolled, lead to conflict and ruin.

—C. H. Plummer, Australia.



We regret the Bulletin is a little late this month, this was occasioned in that it was not possible to send the copy to the printer's until after the meeting of our Fiftieth Anniversary.

S. H.