



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.

## ATTENDANCE AT LODGE

Before noting a few suggestions whereby the attendance at our lodge meetings may be improved I would like to express my sincere thanks for the great honor which was done me by the Masons in Alberta in electing me as your Grand Master for the coming year. In assuming this office I realize it necessitates the assumption of many responsibilities. I assure you I will do my best to discharge the duties of the office satisfactorily and hope that on me the honor has not been undeservedly bestowed.

A perusal of the reports submitted by the D.D.G.M.'s for the past year showed very conclusively that the percentage of attendance of resident members was quite low. This was particularly so in the case of large lodges. The table noted below gives the statistical data in this connection.

Number of Resident Members in Lodges	Percentage of Attendance
Resident Membership up to 50.....	55.9%
Resident Membership from 51 to 100.....	38.9%
Resident Membership from 101 to 200.....	33.5%
Resident Membership from 201 to 300.....	26.3%
Resident Membership over 300.....	18.1%

It is significant to note that one of the smaller lodges (resident membership less than thirty) had eighty-seven percent of its resident members present on the average at each meeting while one of the larger lodges (resident membership over three hundred) had less than fifteen percent of its resident members present on the average at each meeting.

As we start the fall term, I appeal to the brethren to be as regular in their attendance as possible. By so doing you will not only become more familiar with the teachings of our fraternity and its symbolism but you will also become more interested in the work of your lodge. In this connection may I also note that you are all familiar with the statement "Answer and obey all lawful Ss and Ss if within the length of my Ct pleading thereto no excuse save sickness and the pressing emergencies of my public and private avocations."

Having made this appeal my I offer a few suggestions that may be helpful in improving the attendance at our lodge meetings.

(1) Due to the large number of candidates in many lodges much of the time at our meetings is of necessity required for the conferring of degrees. I feel the interest of the brethren will be increased and the attendance improved if the Master and his Officers have the work of the lodge well organized so that there is no delays and the degrees are conferred impressively and with dignity. One suggestion associated with this is to start the lodge promptly at the time specified for opening.

In this connection I am noting a clipping from a recent issue of the "Orphans Friend and Masonic Journal." The manner in which the degrees are conferred, educational and entertaining programmes rendered or business transacted should be of such a nature that every Mason present could go away from the lodge with a feeling of having been strengthened and uplifted by the contacts held with all present. The article continues: "The result would be that the attendance would improve and what is still better Masonry would push on to greater heights in character development."

(2) Have some "Side-Benchers" nights. On these occasions the work is done under the direction of an experienced Master by those who do not hold office and frequently by those who received their Master Mason's degree quite recently. By giving the young brethren some work to do they not only become more familiar with Masonic teachings but their interest in the lodge is increased.

(3) In the lodges there is a library containing the Proceedings of Grand Lodge and several books relating to various parts of our Masonic teachings, landmarks and symbolism. All the brethren should be encouraged to read articles from these sources. The Grand Lodge Bulletin is received by the brethren each month from September to June. This Bulletin contains interesting articles on many phases of Masonry and should be perused carefully. Experience shows that those who read and

study Masonic literature and Masonic writings are interested in lodge work and are very regular in attendance.

(4) Most brethren are interested in hearing a discussion or talk on some Masonic subject. Hence one method of improving the attendance at lodge meetings is to have addresses given from time to time. In arranging for these addresses care should be taken that they are not too long. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually a suitable length of time for such addresses. On special occasions the length of time could be increased. It might be noted that when a brother prepares a paper he does considerable reading and thereby improves his Masonic education and his interest in lodge work.

(5) Visiting either by groups of lodge members or by individual members to another lodge is a good method to improve attendance at lodge meetings. The friendships made in these visits frequently last many years. On visiting another lodge a brother usually obtains some ideas which will be helpful to him in his own lodge. Visiting is one of the vitamins that gives lodges vitality. Nothing else will give a dormant lodge a "shot in the arm" like visits of members from other lodges. On such occasions the officers try to do the work a little better and the spirit of the lodge is improved. May I suggest that during the coming year each brother plans to visit at least two neighboring lodges. If this were carried out I am sure the interest in Masonry would be increased and the attendance at our lodge meetings would be greatly improved.

(6) While the Master and his officers should do everything possible to have a good attendance at lodge meetings there is also a responsibility on the members themselves. If some brother is not attending regularly, some one should phone him or call on him and ascertain the reason. When this is done the brother realizes he is missed at lodge and usually he becomes a regular attendant. In the case of newly made Masons the two brothers who sponsored their application have a responsibility that does not end when they sign the petition. If you invite a guest to a gathering at your home, you make sure he meets all your other guests and is made welcome and comfortable. Just so, the man whom you recommend to Free Masonry is entitled to the same courtesy. As his sponsor it is not only your duty to assist him in his work but also to take an interest in his progress. Should he become irregular in his attendance, without cause, the sponsors should seek the reason and invite him to attend regularly.

(7) Among the members of any lodge there are usually some who are interested in dramatics. There are several short plays illustrating the teachings and principles of our fraternity. It is quite possible that the Master of the lodge could obtain a cast from the members to produce one or more of these plays from time to time. This would not only promote Masonic education among the brethren but would improve their attendance at lodge. One very suitable play is "The Rose on the Altar."

Particulars as to where the manuscript for these plays may be secured are available from the Grand Secretary.

(8) Many lodges have special nights such as Dominion Night, Empire Night, Burn's Night, Irish Night, St. George's Night, etc. On those occasions a special speaker is provided and good fellowship is enjoyed. Such occasions promote good will among the Brethren and in most cases a large number of visitors are present.

(9) Without doubt, one reason we do not have more enthusiastic Masons and a better attendance at Lodge meetings is that many brethren do not know just what kind of an institution it is to which they belong. The ritualistic work well done delights the mind, the floor work properly executed pleases the eye and both are necessary in conferring degrees. But that is not enough; the Brethren need to know more about Masonry. They need to be familiar with its teachings, its landmarks, its symbolism. They should know something of its origin, what it stands for. If the Brethren were familiar with these phases of Masonry, there would be fewer suspensions, fewer demits and a much better attendance at Lodge meetings. Expressed in other words, more Masonic education in our lodges would be one of the best methods to improve the attendance at lodge meetings.

M.W. Bro. ROSS S. SHEPPARD,  
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Alberta.

### THE F.C. DEGREE

The degree of Fellow Craft in our Masonic system is one of the most scholarly degrees through which the novitiate passes. And yet it is the degree which is most often slighted and conferred in a careless and hasty manner. The degree contains more valuable information and expounds much of the operative science of Masonry. When given to a candidate in a thoughtful and impressive manner it not only adds to his general fund of understanding and knowledge, but acquaints him with geometrical Masonry and should indicate in him a desire to study the liberal arts and sciences. The Mason who sees nothing in this degree other than platitudes and empty ceremonies is not a fit candidate for the honours of Masonry, for ours is a society which appeals to thoughtful men.

M.W. Bro. DELMAR D. DARRAH,  
Past Grand Master, Illinois.

### THE MASTER OF A LODGE

The Master of a Private Lodge enjoys the highest honour the lodge can possibly confer on a brother. The election and installation of the Master of every Private Lodge occurring annually, indicates at least that the administration and leadership of Masonry is always in progress. Each Master is installed for the ensuing twelve months and only for twelve months, and if for any reason whatsoever it is necessary for him to be continued

for a further term, he must again be re-elected and installed. But such occasions are very rare.

If the Master interprets his position in the right light he will visualise what is required of him. He is, during the tenure of his office, invested with the leadership of the lodge, consequently much will depend on his own character, his capacity to grasp and discharge his duties and the faithfulness with which he sees those duties through. As the Master, he is expected to know and teach the ritual with precision and accuracy. He is often the repository of a brother's domestic as well as business secrets, which he must keep inviolate; he may have occasion to rebuke and counsel a wayward brother and to give sympathetic consideration to those who seek his advice. It is not all Masters who are equipped with the capacity for discharging these duties to the same degree; possibly, that in some measure accounts for the continued vitality of Masonry, as the gifts of others are thereby brought into activity.

Each year a new Master brings in himself a new personality into the leadership of the lodge, a new interpreter of Masonic duties and obligations. He may build up the social aspects of the lodge, raise the standard of ceremonial work, strengthen the criterion by which candidates are tested, or re-organize the finances of the lodge. His highest attainment however, will be to clarify the atmosphere and raise the general tone of the lodge.

The Master, above all else, must be the embodiment of Masonic ideals and radiate them in all he thinks and does. A wise Master, however capable in grace, gifts and personality will always avail himself of the experience and judgment of those who have preceded him in the office, for it should always be borne in mind, that the weight and wisdom of a lodge lies in the experience and considered judgment of Past Masters. It may seem paradoxical to say it, but a Master's ripest opportunity begins when he ceases to be the Master.

To watch the way some Masters apply themselves to their duties is interesting and provocative of thought. Their attitude, in some cases, is that of the schoolmaster, regarding their members simply as pupils; some take up the attitude of entertainer as if their sole business was to provide amusement and fun for the members; while others, regarding the lodge as having members who are of the parasitical class, place themselves throughout the year as counsellors ready to advise and direct all and sundry. The Master, in the light of the Ancient Charges and Regulations enforced upon every Master at his installation, should give real Masonic leadership to his lodge.

—The Masonic Record, London.

He who will not reason is a bigot, he who cannot is a fool, and he who dares not is a slave.

## THE PERPEND ASHLAR

In Freemasonry we hear much about Rough and Perfect Ashlars. Many thousands of words have been written about these two Emblems. Any reading Freemason has perused thousands of words upon the subject. We hear the two Ashlars described every time a certain historical explanatory lecture is given. We may assume that every Freemason is rather familiar with these rough and perfect stones, but how many have ever given consideration to the Perpend Ashlar? Probably many have not so much as ever heard of this Emblem. It had an important place in Operative Freemasonry, but is given no place in the rituals of Speculative Craft. Coming to us from the Operatives, possibly it symbolizes that, even as a Speculative Craft, we should be working Freemasons.

The Perpend Ashlar was essential in the construction of any stone structure for which stones of various shapes and sizes were used. In a sense the Perpend Ashlar was a Perfect Ashlar. It was prepared by the hands of the workman for the builder's use—for a certain definite purpose—and to certain specifications. It had to be a perfect stone. It had to be without flaw. In length it was the exact width of the wall into which it was to be placed, and it was faced in exactly the same manner on both ends. One end was placed to the inside of the structure and the other faced the outside world. If there is in this Symbolism for the Speculative Craftsman, it probably is that he should present to the world the same face that he does inside the lodge.

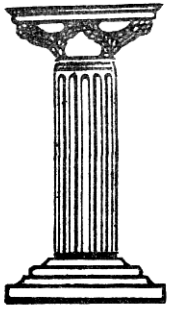
Perpend Ashlars were placed at suitable intervals as binders to hold together the other stones in the wall. Without these Perpend Ashlars walls that rose to the heavens would have been in danger of crumbling. The weight above might have dislodged the stones in the lower part of the wall and it would have disintegrated. By the use of Perpend Ashlars the walls could be raised to any height with the assurance that they would stand for centuries.

Every lodge has Perpend Ashlars in its membership. Brethren who act symbolically in the lodge in the same manner that Perpend Ashlars acted in the walls of cathedrals raised by our Ancient Brethren. They are the binding force. They hold the brethren together. They are concerned with the welfare of their brethren. They are a binding force for Freemasonry as a whole.

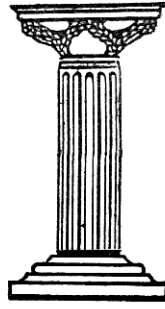
There are also lodges which play to a large degree the same part in Freemasonry that the Perpend Ashlar played in the great structure of stone. They are a binding force. They keep the structure of Freemasonry from crumbling.

We need more brethren who are Perpend Ashlars, who are a binding force among the brethren, who do their part to keep the brethren from falling. We need more lodges which perform the same service.

—The Victorian Craftsman.



# Between the Pillars



## A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF GRAND LODGE

The Fifty-first Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was held in the Central Masonic Temple, Edmonton, Alberta, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 13th and 14th, 1956, with the Board of General Purposes meeting on Tuesday afternoon, June 12th

Our Grand Master M.W. Brother S. Carl Heckbert of Vermilion, Alberta, presided in his usual capable manner.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. J. J. Bowlen, brought the greetings of Her Majesty the Queen and the Province of Alberta whilst His Worship the Mayor of the City of Edmonton, Bro. W. Hawrelak, extended to Grand Lodge the greetings and welcome of the City of Edmonton. These greetings from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and His Worship the Mayor were greatly appreciated.

There were 532 members present with a total vote of 691, also 65 M.M.'s were present. There are now 159 Chartered Lodges and two Lodges Under Dispensation in the Province, of these 142 Chartered Lodges and one Lodge Under Dispensation were represented at Grand Lodge. 21 lodges were incorporated during the year, leaving 32 lodges not incorporated, four of these are presently applying for incorporation.

No lodges were consecrated during the year but three new lodges were Instituted: Jubilee and Foothills Lodges in Calgary and Exemplar Lodge in Edmonton.

Fifty-Year Jewels were presented to 30 members during the year and four Sixty-Year members received their Sixty-Year Bar to their Fifty-Year Jewels. May these veteran brethren be given good health to wear these honours for many years to come.

Our membership as at December 31st, 1955, was 17,726 being an increase of 393.

No Grand Lodges were accorded fraternal recognition this year. Three Grand Representatives were appointed to represent the Grand Lodge of Alberta near other Grand Lodges: The Grand Lodges of Queensland, Massachusetts and New York. The Grand Representatives were appointed by other Grand Lodges to represent them near the Grand Lodge of Alberta: The Grand Lodges of Ireland, Queensland and Puerto Rico.

The Board of Benevolence expended \$9,180,107 during the year. Individual lodges in the jurisdiction also made large contributions.

The M.W. Grand Master, R. W. Grand Secretary and the Editor of the Bulletin attended the Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries held in Washington, D.C. Together with M.W. Bro. F. P. Galbraith, P.G.M., they attended the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the Province of Ontario. This anniversary was held in the City of Toronto.

No rulings were given by the Grand Master during the year which indicates that Freemasonry in the jurisdiction of Alberta is in a healthy condition. Grand Lodge had as distinguished visitors this year the following brethren from other Grand Jurisdictions:

M.W. Bro. J. Ferguson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. M.W. Bro. J. H. Cudington, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan. R.W. Bro. James C. McCormick, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota. R.W. Bro. Reverend Dr. Johnston, Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the Province of Ontario. R. W. Bro. Johnston was the Guest Speaker at the Annual Banquet held on Wednesday night in the Hotel Macdonald. R.W. Bro. Charles Elliott, Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, and V.W. Bro. J. R. P. Reiner, Senior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Montana.

The Grand Historian presented the Fifty-Year History of Grand Lodge, 1906-1956.

The following Grand Lodge Officers were duly elected and installed by M.W. Bro. Dr. Clare C. Hartman, P.G.M., assisted by M.W. Bro. W. H. Jackson, P.G.M.

- GRAND MASTER ..... M.W. Bro. R. S. Sheppard (11), Edmonton
- DEPUTY GRAND MASTER... R.W. Bro. S. G. Bannan (86), Blairmore
- SENIOR GRAND WARDEN... R.W. Bro. D. D. McQueen (74), Vulcan
- JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN... R.W. Bro. D. Little (7), Edmonton
- GRAND TREASURER ..... R.W. Bro. L. J. Rosling (9), Calgary
- GRAND SECRETARY (ap.)... R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers (51), Calgary
- GRAND REGISTRAR ..... R.W. Bro. E. G. Ellerton (167), Edmonton
- GRAND CHAPLAIN ..... R.W. Bro. Rev. Canon W. H. Morgan (165), Calgary
- GRAND TYLER ..... V.W. Bro. F. J. Pearce (137), Calgary

Another year of progress and active Freemasonry in the Province of Alberta has been completed. Grand Lodge will be held next year in the City of Calgary on June 12th and 13th, 1957.

M.W. Bro. SAM HARRIS,  
Past Grand Master, Alberta.

## GOOD WILL

The most precious thing anyone can have is the good will of others. It is something as fragile as an orchid, and as beautiful. It is more precious than a gold nugget, and as hard to find. It is as powerful as a great turbine, and as hard to build. It is as wonderful as youth, and as hard to keep. It is an intangible something, this good will of others, yet more to be desired than much gold. It is the measure of a man's success and determines his usefulness in this life.

—Exchange.