



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.

## Ten Minutes Past High Twelve

Admittance into the Masonic Fraternity is not—and should not be—an accidental or haphazard event, either on the part of the applicant or the membership of the lodge to which the application is made. Before acceptance there is a screening from several angles, moral, financial, educational and suitability. A quiet attempt is made to prevent those whose interest can never be aroused by Masonry from taking a step which will bring disappointment to them and no value to the Order. The objective is members who are decent men of intelligence and understanding, anxious to improve themselves and help others. Upon those who make application we use our best judgment in deciding the benefit of Masonry to the applicant and of the applicant to Masonry. In most cases this selection is done honestly, seriously and sincerely, and by this very care we make of Masonry practically a closed institution. Such demands on the part of the brethren before admitting new members are wise, necessary and just. But like all perogatives, these rights should impress us with the necessity of keeping a close scrutiny of the progress and efficiency of our order and make us realize the grave responsibilities that are ours, to learn and discharge our individual duties, within the Institution and in the world outside.

The present age and world conditions are more complex and rapidly changing than ever before. But we believe in and are working for an Institution of which the foundations, traditions, landmarks, ideals and philosophy are unchangeable. What a paradox! But the sense of the situation is evident when we realize that the principles of Freemasonry are those inherent in the breasts of good men from earliest times, and will remain those to which humanity will aspire as long as mankind exists.

Civilization has undergone many changes through the ages, fortunately on the whole for the better. Changes are not all good: they may prove at times to be costly and detrimental errors which, after the price is paid, must be undone if possible. But it is by change that progress is made and to resist change frequently is to oppose those advancements through which the world is made better. While the principles and ideals of Free-

masonry must remain steadfast and constant through time, the efforts of ourselves, the workmen, can be so adjusted to prevailing causes and conditions as to make a worthwhile contribution to the ever-present need of guidance, stabilization and support demanded by these changes.

Inasmuch as the beneficial effects of the wide practice of Freemasonry were never more needed in the world than today, the question arises—are we, a self-appointed body of men, doing all that could be done in this time of crisis?

It is our annual custom to receive and accept, both at District Meetings and Grand Lodge Communications, reports from our elected officers that all is well in our jurisdiction. The reports as submitted are inclined to give us a feeling that we may sit back and relax, for our Masonic family is happy and prosperous. Has continued harmony in our ranks made us content to accept this comfortable picture? Have we failed to investigate what progress we are really making in our lodges and what influence Masonry is exerting in the world outside?

The usefulness of any organization which attempts to carry out good works must be influenced by a combination of two factors: the activity and devotion of its members, and the number of members obligated to its principles. Admitting that numerical growth is not a complete indication of the progress or health of our Order, yet undoubtedly it is important. In the report of the Grand Secretary in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge 1956, under Membership, R.W. Bro. Rivers was careful to lay open for inspection by the brethren the situation of the membership as it then existed. This little paragraph is found on page 148. It is not quoted here, but it merits thought, especially in conjunction with these statistics relative to our growth and the population of the Province.

	Population of Alberta	Masonic Membership
1906 .....	185,000	1,496
1930 .....	708,000	14,226
1950 .....	895,000	15,509
1955 .....	1,066,000	17,722

Some interesting and informative comparisons are made by Bro. Rivers in the reports referred to above and it might be helpful if the Worshipful Masters brought these facts before their individual lodges for discussion and suggestions. Some surprising facts will be found if the D.D.G.M.'s and District Secretaries investigate their various districts in the manner of Bro. Rivers' report.

There are few organizations or institutions today that do not make full use of publicity. Most colleges, churches and charitable organizations advertise, generally through a promotions or public relations officer. Many worthy causes are kept constantly in the public eye in this manner. Such programs, appealing largely to the senses and emotions, are often designed to encourage the individual to immediate action rather than quiet reflection. In this world of furious living and flaming propaganda, perhaps the soberly spoken truth and thoughtfully written word are not sufficiently blatant to attract the attention of thinking people.

It is not suggested, of course, that Masonry should become any part of this maze of shouting, exaggerated statements and half-truths in which we live. But in this tempest-swept world, perhaps more than ever before, Masonry has its place. It must not rest content to be merely the architect of its own destiny, but with strength of purpose and determination make the principles of equality and brotherly love more dominant factors in the days that are to be.

The moral must, eventually, outweigh the material; and nothing can withstand a moral purpose if it is given the power of action as well as words. Through our membership and by our obligations we have a community of interest in morality and a responsibility to further its cause. How then can Masons add greater strength to the moral force which has always striven for justice and freedom among individuals and nations?

Two answers may be: increased membership and greater use of the unexploited potential now in our ranks. To the outside world our organization appears inactive and withdrawn. To make Masonry effective the members must understand it and live it. Through the actions and daily lives of individual Masons, our Order must be interpreted to those unacquainted with its purpose and philosophy.

The interest of the members would be stimulated by a greater knowledge of the history of Masonry in this jurisdiction. Undoubtedly the history of Masonry in Alberta, as presented to Grand Lodge at its last Communication by M.W. Bro. Harris contains much helpful material. If this were made easy of access to the whole membership at a minimum cost to each Brother, the results of the labors of Bro. Harris might go far in increasing informative Masonic reading and encouraging the brethren to greater effort.

Great value is seen in the suggestion and action, introduced at the last Grand Lodge Communication by the M.W. Grand Master, Bro. Shepard, concerning help to enable selected individuals to complete their education. Such a worthwhile program must make Masons feel that they

are not only doing something pleasing to their own hearts, but also forwarding the great purpose of Masonry by sending well-equipped workers into many fields.

Leadership, in and out of the lodge, is of the utmost importance. Many talented Masons are already giving their time, experience and judgment in positions of guidance and government. But how many more are neglecting opportunities to give practical effect to Masonic teaching in the fields of public affairs? It would seem that if the saneness of Masonic philosophy were more pronounced in national and international policies, the world would be a much better and safer place. To brothers to whom such avenues of service are not open, there still remains the opportunity of leadership in the community and the lodge. In every community there are organizations needing help to start or carry on some worthy movement. This may be connected with the Church, the school, the teen-agers, the Scouts or the needy. Through such activities Masons can influence the Present and the Future, by teaching outside the lodge the virtues of correct and decent living and the consideration due at all times to the other fellow.

Attendance at lodge is vital both to the lodge and to the member. But merely to fill a seat comfortably and have a good lunch is not enough. Within the lodge room, as within the community, no Mason should fail to make whatever contribution his capabilities allow. Not all may take part in the business or ceremonials of the evening. But it is within the power of every Brother to show hospitality and friendliness to a stranger, to make someone less lonely and perhaps to share or relieve a worry.

To justify the continued existence and the future of Masonry, we must concern ourselves with fully realizing its power and potential today. Masonic effort should be directed into those channels through which the greatest impact for good can be made upon the world. Let us find profit in our Past, that we may build better on our sure foundations, endeavoring to incorporate the old values of Masonry into the changed order of today. While publicity is foreign to the principles of Masonry, we must not curtail our usefulness by some air of secrecy. We should have no lack of assurance in the worth of Masonry or in the importance of the work to be done, for it can provide a true solution for the problems of the free world. Through the ages, Masonry has enjoyed a unique prestige and this we must continue to merit and enhance, through diligent practice of our Masonic teachings.

With so much still to be done, let us not be satisfied with the well-rounded work already accomplished but with quickening interest, eager devotion and loyalty, let us recognize the difference between hoping for something and working for it. "Words are but the shadows of actions." We must aspire to possess the future, for Masonry's fulfillment is ever in the morrow. We shall not reach that far horizon—all that we can do is make today a step toward it.

M.W. Bro. Clare C. Hartman, M.D.  
Past Grand Master, Alberta.

## Overtures of Spring

My Brethren:

With the coming of spring, and evidences of renewed life about us, a freshness of approach to the main challenge of Freemasonry is timely. Easter, with all its hopeful fulfillments in the moral and spiritual world, comes to remind us of a better way for mankind in the midst of an age of materialism.

Unfortunately, the emphasis of our lives tends to be on the material side. We have been thrilled and stimulated by the great technical advances that mankind has made during our generation. At no time in the history of the human race has material progress been so rapid. The ingenuity and inventiveness of man has never before blossomed so luxuriantly. It is as if, suddenly, all the accumulated knowledge of the centuries has been crystallized into modern mechanical devices which seem to give us new possibilities for a better life.

It is no wonder that many should concentrate upon these new devices which are the outward expression of our modern industrial and scientific world. But when man has shown himself so intelligent, and so capable of harnessing natural forces, it may seem for him unnecessary to aspire towards those Masonic ideals which are to be found in the Volume of the Sacred Law, and which are manifested in a triumphant and victorious Divine Being. We have become too self-reliant and too much centered upon our own ingenuity. We have excelled on the material side, but not on the moral side.

It is this neglect of moral and spiritual values which has brought to the world anxiety and fear. This is the concern of each of us because, upon our power to control the material forces, will depend our happiness and our future welfare. Upon the Altar of every Masonic Lodge, supporting the Square and Compasses, lies the Holy Bible. The old, familiar book, so beloved by so many generations, contains those moral values which must control our material life. If ever we are in doubt as to how we should act in particular circumstances,—personal, social, political, or economic,—we can find the answer reflected in that Great Light of Freemasonry. Its teachings break forth in a radiant glory carrying renewed hope to the discouraged and frustrated.

Just as nature at this season unfolds the true beauty of running streams, the sound of the waterfall, and the gradual appearance of delicate, charming spring flowers, so does the Volume of the Sacred Law inspire us to purer and nobler living. May faith and power be given to all of us to achieve a fuller measure of those lofty ideals of our fraternity which will unfailingly give us light, and life, and a deep abiding joy!

Most Rev. Brother W. L. Wright  
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Canada,  
in the Province of Ontario.

This issue of the Grand Lodge Bulletin completes its twenty-second year of continuous issue. We are happy to report several Lodges have

### AT REST

We regret to announce that M.W. Bro. George F. Ellis, P.G.M., passed away on April 4th, 1957, and was buried in Calgary on April 6th.

M.W. Bro. Ellis was born in Askwith, Yorkshire, England, on August 4th, 1889, and came to Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1909, coming to Calgary, Alberta, in 1914.

He was a member of the Wesley United Church, also a member of the Church Choir since 1914.

He had no affiliations other than Masonic. He was initiated in Ashlar Lodge, No. 28, Calgary, and in 1921 he became one of the founders of Concord Lodge, No. 124, in Calgary, later becoming the Lodge's Worshipful Master in 1926.

M.W. Bro. Ellis served the Grand Lodge of Alberta as Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1928, in 1938 he was elected as Junior Grand Warden becoming Grand Master in 1941. Later he served Grand Lodge on the Board of Benevolence, Committee on the Work and the Finance Committee. He also served for many years as the Secretary of the Western Canada Conference, generally known as the Banff Conference.

M.W. Bro. Ellis was also active in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite being coroneted an Honorary Inspector General, Thirty-third degree in 1945.

To his wife and family we extend our sincerest sympathy and best wishes for the future.

*"A simple wreath, Acacia sprigs will do;  
And mingled with the green, a rose or two.  
We do not stop to think that when we die  
The undiscovered country may not lie so far  
away."*

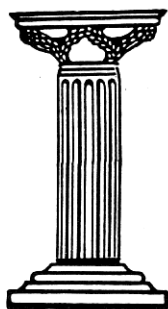
S. H.

### THE APPEAL OF FREEMASONRY

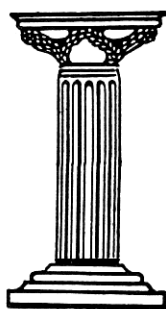
Freemasonry appeals to me, first, by its fellowship; and next to the home and the House of God it is the most blessed influence in my life. Its simple and profound faith, its wise and practical philosophy—uniting the wisdom of love with the love of wisdom—illumine my mind, as its genius of fraternity warms my heart. But still more, Masonry appeals to me as an agency for the organization of moral faith, practical brotherhood and social idealism, the worth and power of which we have not yet realized. In a day when the brotherhood of the world is broken, our ancient and noble Craft has an opportunity, the like of which it has never before, to use its influence and power to spread that fraternal righteousness without which the future will be as dark as the past.

Joseph Fort Newton

this year increased their order to cover all members. It is hoped all Lodges will do so this coming year.



## Between the Pillars



# Masonic Light

It certainly is very pleasing and encouraging to find so many men entering Freemasonry; but the want of a system to spread Masonic Light among these new brethren remains unprovided for in individual Lodges, with very few exceptions.

True it is that the Board of General Purposes has provided Lecturettes on each degree to be handed to each candidate at his Initiation, Passing and Raising, but these are not used to the extent that they should be, some Lodges not even knowing of their existence, and some not interested enough to put them into use. A Library and a Travelling Library have been provided by the Board, followed by the publication of our Masonic Journal "The Ashlar." These are by no means being availed of to the extent they could. The Barron Barnett, Mt. Chalmers, Fidelity and Gregory Lodges are playing their part, in their respective districts, to educate the brethren masonically, but these are not enough.

**A system of masonic instruction is required to give initiative and action in every Lodge, if any advancement is to be made.**

It is a hard and fast rule in Freemasonry that applicants to the Order must be just, upright, and free men, of mature age, sound judgment and strict morals. In other words he must be the approach towards a perfect man.

To the thinking applicant this strict scrutiny of himself must make a man feel that he is entering a body of men of a very high order, and from the night of his initiation onwards, he should be given every opportunity to see that his thoughts were correct, and every occasion to study and acquire "Masonic Light."

Early in his masonic career a brother is advised to make some daily advancement in masonic knowledge, and is then left to find out for himself what masonic knowledge really is. This lack of early masonic instruction could, to some, bring no desire to act on the lessons of the degree they have received, when instruction should be such, to create a will to grasp these masonic truths, putting them to beneficial use. It is of little worth to any brother, if he must spend years in the Craft, not to know its value. This educational starting point is most important in Freemasonry, for our very future depends on it, giving as it does to every brother a proper approach to life, for from a good start must come a greater success.

**Every member of the Craft should be made aware of that great storehouse of Masonic Light which lights the path every brother is asked to tread.**

Far too many Lodges think only of membership, coupled with a lip service of many shapes and forms, which does not lead to Masonic Light and never will. To be impressed as some would make it, but uninformed is not the desire of masonry. Freemasonry is too profound to be directed by any individual usage or custom. Its summit is brotherhood, brotherhood of the highest moral standard, directed for the betterment of mankind, and possessing for its heritage those forceful attributes contained in the three Great Lights, the Ancient Charges, Obligations, Symbols, and Working Tools of the Craft. Here will be found the best material, the best working tools, the best results, for therein is Masonic Light.

**Let no brother starve through lack of masonic understanding. Time must and can be found for masonic instruction.**

It is just nonsense to say there is no time. If desire and will is there, time will be found. If desire and will is not there, it is then time for the Board to take up the matter.

When a candidate asks for Light, let Light be forthcoming, not as an act of ceremonial, but that Masonic Light, that knowledge which must be built into the mind of every brother, establishing Freemasonry in him not as a pastime, but as a life to be lived.

Courtesy The Ashlar,  
Grand Lodge of Queensland

## "Be Faithful"

Be faithful to your friends; for true friendship is of a nature not only to survive through all the vicissitudes of life, but to continue through an endless duration; not only to stand the shock of conflicting opinions and the roar of a revolution that shakes the world, but to last when the heavens are no more, and to spring fresh from the ruin of the universe.

Be faithful to your country, and prefer its dignity and honour to any degree of popularity and honour for yourself, consulting its interests rather than your own and rather than the pleasure and gratification of the people, which are often at variance with their welfare.

Be faithful to Masonry, which is to be faithful to the best interests of mankind. Labour, by precept and example, to elevate the standard of Masonic character, to enlarge its sphere of influence, to popularize its teachings, and to make all men know it for the Great Apostle of Peace, Harmony, and Goodwill on earth among men, of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.

Pike.

GRAND LODGE will be held this year in the new Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium at Calgary on June 12th next at 9 o'clock a.m., continuing on June 13th. All Past Masters, Worshipful Masters and Wardens are requested to be present.

S. H.