



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: S. CARL HECKBERT, P.G.M., Vermilion, Alberta

OUR MISSION!

By R.W. BRO. L. E. BUCKWELL, P.D.D.G.M.
District No. 8, Pincher Creek

The institution of a Masonic Lodge is the cause of a great deal of pride and satisfaction to Grand Lodge, but more so to the Charter Members of the new lodge. But is it any more satisfying than having new candidates knocking on the door of the lodge? The new lodge is instituted by brethren who are already within the Craft and who realize its privileges, value and benefits, while the candidate desires entrance of his own accord, for an opportunity to follow and emulate men whom he admires and respects. As the officers and members have taken solemn obligations and undertaken duties, so the new candidate takes upon himself similar responsibilities.

Masonry has a place to play in the life of the lodge and the individual member. Its duty is to build the moral and spiritual character of its members upon the principles on which it is founded. These principles are not necessarily Masonic in origin, nor solely the property of the Masonic Order, but like other immutable laws of God, are free to all mankind and spread their benefit on all who would use and understand them.

Masonry is not a religion, though it would seem it requires the background of religion for a full appreciation of its intentions and desires. Dealing with the character of a man is a field which requires delicate tools and skilled artists. The officers of a new lodge have a greater task ahead of them than might appear on the surface. The same might be said of the new candidate; with proper training, encouragement and example, he may be made into a valuable member of the Order and a shining light to society as a whole. However, if, like so many, the candidates are allowed to waste their time and energy on the frills of lodge activities and no effort is made to teach and to bend the will to the more serious and deeper side of the nature of the candidate, it is almost axiomatic that much of the value of basic Masonic principles will be forever lost to him. Friendship, visitation, learning, are all steps along the path of Masonry, but are not all that it has to offer.

The new candidate came to the door of Masonry that, if admitted, he might be allowed to learn—to learn what? To learn the secret of a rich and full spirit here, and the hope of a rewarding life hereafter. The degrees through which he will pass will doubtless teach a fine lesson in theory which will be but the beginning of a labour which will be enhanced by a deeper search of the mind and the soul. How to put into everyday practice, theory into fact, without becoming discouraged by a slow advancement and what may appear to be a small daily gain. It would appear that if Masonry would spend some little time upon the moral side of its foundation, its members generally would more fully appreciate its virtues. To understand more deeply, not the theory of good living, but the practice of everyday 'shoulder rubbing' should be our intent. To do this, however, it is necessary that a firm moral foundation be laid, so that, no matter how often the building may be torn down or rebuilt, the foundation is always true and firm.

With this in mind let us briefly examine our meeting with a brother and what it entails. First we meet as members of an Honourable and Ancient Society; we share the same secrets, benefits and privileges. Secondly we meet as believers in the same Supreme Being and with the forward look beyond the grave. These two points bring us to common ground and shared ideals. But we, as believers in the Most High are, theologically speaking, "sons of God" and He, our Heavenly Father and, if sons, so again we meet as Brothers in a most wonderful way, cutting across all barriers, real or imaginary, in religion, race or colour, so that we can truly say we are Brothers.

Then we firmly avow to stand together through all adversities for mutual support and protection. Here again in theory is a grand ideal, but so often in practice it falls short. Many the man who has stood alone with the right principle, for, because his method was deemed wrong by others, he received little of the help which, perhaps, he had a right to expect. The Mason must judge for himself what he deems to be the principle, from the teachings of the Craft. The right of method or administration is a right of all men to agree

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EDITORIAL

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Elsewhere in this issue there appears, in chart form, what appears to be some very sound advice to Worshipful Masters and others responsible for the well being of constituent Lodges, as well as to members generally.

If each of the directives were followed with any reasonable degree of effort there is little question but that our Lodges would be a much more vital factor in their respective communities.

We so often hear complaints that 'attendance is poor at Lodge meetings!'

If such is the case there is little doubt but that there is a perfectly apparent reason for the lack of attendance, if we will but search for that reason. Careful scrutiny of Lodge records will, I am sure, reveal that when any special event is held, attendance improves. It is not at all necessary that tremendous fanfare be brought into being to stimulate attendance, but it is not difficult for us to recall that when a learned Brother was scheduled to deliver an address on some phase of Masonic Work, or on a subject of interest generally, attendance was raised from the usual enrolment.

It is my pleasure to belong to a group which emphasizes attendance almost as a requirement of membership and I am familiar with the fact that each month the directors of the group meet and PLAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING MEETING; when plans are complete the membership is advised that a certain programme is in prospect and attendance is remarkably good.

It can scarcely be emphatically denied that where attendance falls below that which might be reasonably expected there is fault on the part of those whose duty it is to PLAN FOR MEETINGS. I wonder in how many cases do the officers of our Lodges, or special committees named for the explicit purpose meet well in advance of the meeting date to formulate plans for interesting meetings? Surely those responsible might well spare one evening a month to get together for the purpose of outlining a programme of interest. Once such a programme has been designed it is essential THAT THE MEMBERS BE ADVISED IN ADVANCE that there will be something of interest for them at the next Masonic meeting.

Merely to expect grown men to meet each month, listen to the Opening Ceremonies, pass a few accounts for rent, cleaning the hall, lunches, etc., and to then repair to their homes with a feeling of satisfaction for a job well done, is asking the ridiculous. Masonry is one of the most interesting subjects in the world; its possibilities for development are unlimited and its broad avenue for delightful fellowship cannot be circumscribed.

A Masonic Lodge—YOUR Masonic Lodge—can present a boundless opportunity for pleasant and profitable association. If that association is not being provided it is the fault of some one or more persons. WHOSE? S.C.H.

or disagree, but the principle itself must never be at naught with those of the Craft.

We turn to the Most High in asking for our daily wants and those of our loved ones. Here we are reminded "that more things are wrought by prayer than this world knows of." Our Brothers' wants come to mind at this time and if prayer is given in a sincere and simple manner, who can doubt of its fulfillment. We should avoid the Craft giving lip service to religion while at the same time forgetting that many of the finest things of life have been won by prayer and not by ritual and ceremony. We cannot and dare not become complacent about the part religion plays in our daily lives and the teaching of the young, the family service and the Craft united in Divine Service is a firm reminder to us all.

Sooner or later we probably come to the place where a Brother must share a secret or confidence, either to ease his mind, to seek advice, or purely for friendship's sake; here is a high point in a Brother's esteem to be able to have the ear and heart of a fellow worker; but again, idle tongues so often spoil the lives of persons, loose words have frequently ruined a wonderful friendship. The Brother who can safely be trusted with another's personal secrets is an asset worth more than gold.

Finally let us look to honour. To esteem a Brother for uprightness, integrity, dignity and courage is a mark of respect that all brethren should be proud to give. However in this age we so often find a lessening of personal honour; it may well be said that there is a tendency to try to level down the honourable, rather than raise the average to a higher goal. Masonry has many heroes and every lodge has members who should be honoured and emulated.

It is my hope, with these words, to try to raise our line of vision to a worth while level. Masonry has a great mission and requires all its workers to play their part. If we are to exert a powerful influence on the society of our country, of which task we are quite capable, then we must think and act in a big way. Big thoughts lead to greater vision and greater vision gives more room for friendship and good works.

Masonry's duty is to make good men, better.

TEACHING BY EXAMPLE

The often mentioned McGuffey's Readers are a notable case of teaching by example, in which the child is shown familiar and everyday objects, and in one way or another, associates the object with others about which he wants to know more. This could be a valuable method in Freemasonry.

Too often modern Freemasonry soars too high into unknown space, emphasizing little-known and questionable facts, whereas the ordinary Mason is anxious to find out more and practical information about some of the ceremonies, history and working of the Craft into which he is coming as an active Mason.

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MY LODGE A BETTER LODGE?

CARE OF LODGE HALL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT

1. Keep it clean.
2. Make it a credit to your town.
3. Look upon your Lodge as you would your Home or your Church.

— ATTEND LODGE REGULARLY —

OPERATION OF LODGE

1. Know your work.
2. Know where you're going . . . PLAN YOUR MEETINGS.
3. Keep the Lodge work moving.
4. Start meetings on time.
5. Close on time.

— ATTEND LODGE REGULARLY —

BE GOOD NEIGHBORS

1. Appoint greeters . . . but insist that every member works at it too.
2. Accord visitors proper courtesy and make them truly welcome.
3. Invite neighboring Lodges to special affairs.
4. Visit other Lodges.

— ATTEND LODGE REGULARLY —

DEVELOP SOCIAL LIFE IN LODGE

1. Include family groups.
2. Use special programmes:
 - (a) Ladies' Nights.
 - (b) Past Masters' Night.
 - (c) Special Groups' Nights: Teachers, farmers, etc.
 - (d) Empire Night.
 - (e) Anniversaries.

PLAN . . . PLAN . . . PLAN

1. Special occasions.
2. Attendance at District meetings and Grand Lodge.
3. A program of education or entertainment for every meeting.
4. Entrust duties to committees.
5. Set your Lodge to work.

— ATTEND LODGE REGULARLY —

PLAN . . . PLAN . . . PLAN

1. Have a Lodge budget and a Finance committee that really works.
2. Periodic report on finances.
3. Appoint committees to work with Secretary to avoid suspensions for N.P.D.

— ATTEND LODGE REGULARLY —

PLAN . . . PLAN . . . PLAN

1. Call on sick and bereaved.
2. Advise city Lodges re your members in city hospitals.
3. Name committee to obtain proper attendance at funerals and for special Lodge occasions.
4. Conduct funerals with decorum.

— ATTEND LODGE REGULARLY —

PLAN . . . PLAN . . . PLAN

1. Be proficient in Work.
2. Organize Study Clubs.
3. Fully instruct candidates.
4. Conduct business meetings with precision avoiding lost time.
5. Distribute Work so that other than officers may have a part in the conduct of the Lodge.

— ATTEND LODGE REGULARLY —

PLAN . . . PLAN . . . PLAN

1. Know your members.
2. Know your Grand Lodge Officers.

A WELL INFORMED MASON
IS A BETTER MASON

BE PROUD OF YOUR LODGE



SUPPORT THE OFFICERS

IMPROVE YOURSELF
IN MASONRY

— ATTEND LODGE REGULARLY —

Adapted from North Dakota Grand Lodge Bulletin.



Between the Pillars

WITHIN THE CRAFT IN ALBERTA

Prominent among the 'Special' Lodge Nights in Alberta is the now well-known RCMP Night, held each year under the auspices of Unity Lodge No. 51 in the Capital City of Edmonton. February 16th saw W. Bro. R. J. Sangster, a Staff Sergeant with the Force and a member of Spirit River Lodge No. 116, with a well-skilled Degree Team, drawn from various Lodges throughout the Province, confer a Second Degree on five candidates. The splendid quality of the work must have impressed the candidates as it did the large number of members and visitors assembled for the interesting occasion.

The meeting was attended by 226 members and visitors, exactly one half of whom came from Lodges in the City and a like number from various parts of the Province and from such widely separated places as Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, Pittsburgh, Pa., Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

On conclusion of a most interesting and well conducted Degree the gathering was addressed by Brother M. F. E. Anthony, Chief Constable of the Edmonton City Police Department, formerly an Assistant Commissioner with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. His authentic description of early police work in various parts of the world concluded an evening which will long remain in the memory of the large gathering. The splendid attendance was an indication that 'special' nights have a capability to draw members to Masonic meetings and are one means of overcoming the too often repeated complaint of reduced attendance.

LODGE TO MARK 75th ANNIVERSARY

Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2 will, in June of this year, mark its 75th Anniversary and plans for celebration of this important event in the Masonic history of Alberta are presently under discussion. This prominent Lodge will doubtless mark the occasion in suitable fashion and any historical data assembled should prove of the greatest interest to all members of the Fraternity throughout the Province.

Learn all the lessons the Craft can teach you; veiled in allegory they may be, but look around, there are the symbols to illustrate the story. Do not be content to be merely a member of a Lodge —be a Mason.

A. W. G. Schey.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARIES PLANNED

As the Grand Lodge of Alberta was formed in 1905 it is but expected that numerous constituent Lodges will be approaching the half century mark and it is interesting to note that within the next few months a number will celebrate the important half century milestone. Anniversaries so far known to us are, Palestine Lodge No. 46 at Tofield on March 15th; Chinook Lodge No. 47 at Cowley, June 20th; Comet Lodge No. 50 at Hardisty, on May 12th and Unity Lodge No. 51, Edmonton, scheduled for May 3rd.

THE ART OF GETTING ALONG

Wilfred Petersen in 'Masonic News'

Sooner or later a man, if he is wise, discovers that life is a mixture of good days and bad, victory and defeat, give and take.

He learns that it doesn't pay to be a sensitive soul; that he should let some things go over his head like water off a duck's back.

He learns that he who loses his temper usually loses out.

He learns that all men have burnt toast for breakfast now and then, and that he shouldn't take the other fellow's grouch too seriously.

He learns that carrying a chip on his shoulder is the easiest way to get into a fight.

He learns that the quickest way to become unpopular is to carry tales and gossip about others.

He learns that buck-passing always turns out to be a boomerang and that it never pays.

He comes to learn that the business could be run perfectly well without him.

He learns that it doesn't matter so much who gets the credit as long as the business shows a profit.

He learns that even the janitor is human and that it doesn't do any harm to say 'Good-morning,' even if it is raining.

He learns that most of the other fellows are as ambitious as he is, that they have brains that are as good or better, and that hard work and not cleverness is the secret of success.

He learns to sympathize with the youngster coming into the business, because he remembers how bewildered he was when he first started out.

He learns not to worry when he loses an order, because experience has shown that if he always gives his best, his average will break pretty well.

He learns that no man ever got to first base alone, and that it is only through co-operative effort that we move on to better things.

He learns that bosses are not monsters, trying to get the last ounce of work out of him for the least amount of pay, but that they are usually fine men who have succeeded through hard work and who want to do the right thing.

He learns that folks are not any harder to get along with in one place than another, and that the "getting along" depends ninety eight per cent on his own behaviour.