



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

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## CONSIDER THE HAMMER

This is the season of the year when it is necessary for all of us to ponder over and to consider many things pertinent to our life. We are wavering between panic and reassurance each day. One moment we are cheerful and the next we are filled with fear. Each new day brings new problems concerning our life in general—yet, most of the unhappiness is brought about by ourselves. We create most of our problems which cause us to live in an atmosphere of hysterical fear. We agree, it is silly to be too frightened, or indeed, too belligerent. It is so much better and easier to be calm and not lose our head—especially when we need it the most.

Let us for a moment consider the hammer. A good one doesn't lose its head and fly off the handle. It finds the point and drives it home. It looks on the other side and clinches the matter. Occasionally it makes mistakes, but it rectifies them. It keeps pounding away until the job is done. It is the only knocker in the world that does constructive work.

How completely different our life would be if we would concentrate on our task. But life is like that. Even for one who is granted the fullest working time, life is short. The years are swift, and opportunities turn so quickly to fruits or consequences.

Faith should make us very careful. If we are really living in faith—we are sensing more and more the urgency of Christ's tasks and our personal part in them. There is no room for casual careless drifting in the communion of believers and those who have faith. There is no room for those who "fly off the handle" when things go wrong or do not please them.

We have witnessed the quiet "drive" in all of Christ's activities. His was not the wistful haste of panic stricken and nervous men. Rather, it was the perfect concentration of one who was absolutely pure in heart, one who had no other concern than faith in business and no other purpose than to serve in truth. Of God it can truly be said that He never spent a single moment. He invested every one!

There is so much distrust in the world today. So many tensions, conflicts, dangers and enemies. Many freedoms have been taken away from the inhabitants of other countries—many have lost

faith and hope. How desolate life would be without hope, for the future. How futile it would be if we lost our inherited rights to a fruitful life. Yet, I wonder how long it will be before man realizes that he has just a little longer to invest his time in worthwhile things—rather than to spend it in futility.

Science teaches us to respect intuitive ideas. Although we must keep all our confidence in our science, we must not blindly believe in its actual almightiness. The question is shall we drift on in darkness and apathy or shall we carry a lantern of light to show us true facts and what our next step should be. It is time for us to realize that the greatest thing in all the world is not money, not large temples or buildings, not atomic power or the need to pursue outer space, but it is character.

God cannot reveal our life's plan to all of us at once. I doubt if we could bear it if He did. If we were granted as much knowledge as we sometime clamor for, it would crush us on the spot. It would break our minds and drive us mad. But God, give us all that we can handle. He reveals as much as we are capable of receiving. Therefore, let us not pout and grumble about the mysteries of life. So far we have been given a daily measure of power which you and I need. Unfortunately, we do not usurp this daily measure of power or use it to a good advantage.

We must remember that the world today needs men—Christian men, who can be depended on, who put others before themselves and who are not afraid to stand up and be counted. When men are willing and able to add something to the uplifting of a fraternal life, something of the brotherhood of social life, something to the promotion of political and industrial life, something to the freedom of religion, and something to the practical efficiency of spiritual life—then they will have done mankind a real service.

All the high ideals and motives of our citizenry will be of little use in this world today unless they come forward to strengthen us in performance of our daily duties in the ordinary affairs of life. All of our teachings as Christians would have little effect upon mankind unless we keep in mind, "the light is with you for a little

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## AN EDITORIAL - - THE NEED FOR BLOOD

From time to time requests are received from organizations asking that publicity be given through the columns of our monthly paper to a specific objective of the group seeking to widen public knowledge in connection with a particular phase of what might be termed the daily routine of our lives.

Until the present time there has been no occasion on which it was felt that such requests could be met. Recently, however, a letter was received from the Blood Transfusion Service, Alberta Division, requesting that members of Freemasonry throughout the Province be advised as to the great and never ending need for blood for use in the treatment of the sick and the injured. To this letter was attached a resume very thoroughly outlining the need for blood and we are pleased to reprint this resume in its entirety herewith.

"Wouldn't it be terrible if someone you loved died, when the giving of a little blood might have saved them.

Everyone knows that blood is essential to life, and that in major surgery, haemorrhage and certain other conditions, like poisoning, or in the treatment of cancer, the giving of blood is a vital part of treatment, even, by itself, life-saving. Many may recall a relative whose life has been saved by the giving of other people's blood.

Public spirited volunteers have met the need for blood by donating frequently. This good habit commenced for many with World War II or the Korean conflict, and has kept rolling since. There is obvious drama in giving blood to a wounded soldier, but the drama of a mother haemorrhaging in childbirth, a father bleeding from a collapsed ulcer, a child in shock from loss of blood after an accident, miss the public eye because those who benefit are individuals to whose cases no publicity attaches.

In Edmonton for more than two years, a successful open-heart surgery team has operated at our University Hospital, and has received merited wide-spread acclaim. Such activities may require thirty or even fifty pints of blood for a single patient. Every day major surgery is carried out in other conditions, made possible only by the ready availability of other people's blood. This heavy and steady need does not hit the headlines.

Excluding the sick, the injured, the pregnant, the young and the old, thirty five per cent of the citizens of the City of Edmonton could contribute, and IF THEY DID, and would do so only once in five years, there would be a supply of 20,000 pints a year—ENOUGH FOR CITY PURPOSES.

The objectives of the Blood Transfusion Service are simply stated: to obtain a sure and

sufficient margin to meet disasters or emergencies. The weather is good and the time is right, fellow citizens, to invest a bit of ourselves in the Red Cross Blood Transfusion programme, thereby ensuring that our less fortunate fellowmen will have blood when they need it.

Each week the Edmonton Depot alone must have 700 pints of blood to meet the needs of the 83 hospitals it serves in Northern Alberta—the four main city hospitals alone use over 300 pints of blood per week. Last year 9,422 Northern Alberta patients received 21,685 pints of blood. Don't forget, your blood freely given is in turn given to the patient FREE OF CHARGE. There never has been a charge for blood supplied through the Red Cross Service which commenced in 1947. Donor Clinics are held each Thursday, with few exceptions, from four until eight o'clock p.m. at Red Cross House, 9931 - 106th Street."

The information given in this outline of a service that must necessarily continue is descriptive of the situation in Northern Alberta, but it is beyond doubt that similar conditions exist in other parts of our Province.

Only a very short time ago our people were shocked to learn of a tragic accident involving the transportation of children to their school, when, in addition to the loss of seventeen young lives, there was terrific accidental injury toll and it is not difficult to imagine that the magnificent contribution of blood through the Transfusion Service must have been responsible for some reduction in the death toll of that calamity and that had blood not been so readily available through some form of 'blood bank' or efficient storage facilities, more young lives might have been lost.

The writer has very gratifying memories of two occasions when a member of his family was provided with blood during and following major operations in both of which cases effective recovery was made due, doubtless in large measure, to the flow of life-giving blood from the veins of persons unknown who had previously assisted in meeting the need that is ever present.

Almost daily, hospital visitors in our larger centres may see vans approaching our city hospitals under the capable management of Red Cross workers, bearing containers of blood for use in treatment and even in our smaller centres there are occasions during the year when opportunity is given for donors of blood to make their small but essential contribution.

The blood we give today may very easily save a life tomorrow. We can recall appeals which asked for cash contributions to relief projects when we were urged to "Give till it hurts". The Blood Donation will certainly not hurt—it may well be the means of saving your life or mine.

S.C.H.

## Within The Craft in Alberta

### PAST MASTER INSTALLS SON.

Zetland Lodge No. 83, Calgary, installed their new officers on Dec. 1st, with W. Bro. G. H. Moxham, the retiring Worshipful Master acting as Installing Master. At the appropriate time he invited W. Bro. Sydney Vallance to install his son, Peter S. Vallance, in the office of Worshipful Master. In attendance for the pleasing occasion were W. Bro. Jesse T. Vallance of Lethbridge, an uncle of the new Master, and a number of friends who had served overseas with W. Bro. Sydney Vallance in the First World War.

The M.W. the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Harper, honored the Lodge with his presence and took part in the ceremony and during the evening made presentation of a Fifty Year Jewel to W. Bro. Herbert J. Akitt, who had been initiated in Bow River Lodge No. 1 on April 25th 1910 and was a Charter Member of Zetland Lodge on Dec. 18th 1913, serving as its Worshipful Master in 1922.

### KING GEORGE LODGE IN SPECIAL EVENT

King George Lodge No. 59, Calgary, held its annual Past Master's Night during November, with R.W. Bro. W. F. Gray, P.D.D.G.M. presiding; the chairs were occupied by Past Masters and there must have been at least one member with a statistically inclined brain in attendance, as, during the evening it was estimated that the Past Masters in the chairs represented a total of 944 years, the oldest being W. Bro. J. Hogarth and W. Bro. R. Downie, both of whom are over 80 years of age. There was a total of 406 years of Masonic service among the occupants of the fourteen chairs; the average age of those in attendance was figured to be 67.4 years and the average membership 29 years. Of the Past Masters attending the meeting, 5 were born in England, 5 in Scotland, two in Canada and two in the United States.

During the evening three candidates were raised to the Degree of Master Mason and the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. J. W. Royan, son-in-law of R.W. Bro. Gray extended the thanks of the Lodge to the veteran members for their service.

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longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he goes." (John 12:35).

The destiny of man is not limited to his existence on earth, and he must never forget that fact. He exists less by the actions performed during his life than by the wake he leaves behind him like a shooting star. He may not be aware of all of this—but whatever he leaves behind—he would be wise to consider the hammer—and pattern his life accordingly.

*The Square and Compass*

### GRASSY LAKE LODGE MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On Nov. 26th Grassy Lake Lodge No. 57 celebrated the attainment of Fifty Years of service and welcomed visitors from the several Lethbridge Lodges, Doric Lodge No. 31, Taber and Bow Island Lodge No. 64.

M.W. Bro. Harper, Grand Master, accompanied by M.W. Bro. Bond and M.W. Bro. McQueen, the Grand Secretary and R.W. Bros. Edlund and Noss, attended the meetings which featured a Service of Thanksgiving during the afternoon and a regular meeting in the evening. The Grand Chaplain being unavoidably absent, the Service of Thanksgiving was conducted by R.W. Bro. Rivers.

W. Bro. T. Helland gave an interesting resume of the history of the Lodge and the Grand Master presented a Fifty Year Jewel to W. Bro. Mark Hancock who had been a stalwart member of the Lodge for many years. The attention of the gathering was directed to the outstanding decorative effects of the Lodge, the work of Bro. Hancock.

Following the presentation of the jewel the Grand Master addressed the meeting on the topic, "Responsibilities of Members of the Craft".

### GRAND MASTER'S NIGHT IN LETHBRIDGE

Nov. 29th was the occasion of Grand Master's Night in Lethbridge with York Lodge No. 119 acting as hosts for the four city Lodges; with an attendance of some 125 members and visitors, including the Grand Master and M.W. Bros. Ireland and Bond the meeting proved to be a most enjoyable one which marked an annual event paying tribute to the Grand Master of the day.

Prior to the meeting the distinguished visitors were entertained at dinner by the Senior Officers of the four city Lodges at which time M.W. Bro. Ireland discussed the matter of the work of the Benevolent Committee of Grand Lodge.

During the afternoon the M.W. the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Harper visited the Municipal Hospital for the purpose of presenting Bro. A. W. Hamilton with his Fifty Year Jewel. This Brother, now 93 years of age, was initiated in North Star Lodge No. 4 on March 15th, 1909 and arrangements had been made for him to attend the meeting; however, a few days prior to the meeting he had suffered a fall, resulting in a broken hip and making his confinement to hospital necessary. Despite the injury, Bro. Hamilton was cheerful and in a reminiscent mood; needless to say he was delighted that the Grand Master had taken the time to make the valued presentation.

The Past Master's Night at Lethbridge is an annual event, offering a pleasing opportunity for the four city Lodges and the rural Lodges in the area to strengthen the bonds of fellowship.



# Between the Pillars

## THE FIRST GREAT LANDMARK

To worship God is to adore Him. The lodge room is not a house of worship. Just as operative Masons labored to build soaring cathedrals in which to worship God more passionately and devotedly, so we must understand that our Masonic labors are first and foremost the polishing of a symbolic stone, which is primarily the self, the better to fit it for the Great Builder's use. Our Masonic labors are a means to an end, not the end itself.

To understand His purpose for the individual ashlar which are ourselves, to understand His designs for the structure as a whole, to harmonize our little labors with the universal process of creation which is God, we need to study His sketches in the sacred Book of Law. We need to bow the head and bend the knee in humble submissiveness of His commands. We need to raise our voices in hymns of praise and adoration for the Sublime Intelligence which controls the whole.

This is the essence of worship, and the true Master Mason knows that he will find it only in a House of God. The true Master Mason knows that he cannot perfect his spiritual labors unless he goes to church, unless he practices the ritual of personal prayer, and unless he actively seeks the Presence of the Divine Mind and Will in a sanctum sanctorum erected for that purpose.

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The Mason who demonstrates by his deeds even more than by his words the moral qualities of truthfulness, honor, integrity, charity, appreciation, forgiveness, and love undoubtedly does more to convince initiates of the "goodness of our institution" than the perfect ritualist whose life outside the lodge is colored by bitterness, cold rigidity, or moral deviation.

The Mason who is an active churchman, who gladly gives of his time and substance to promote "the work of the Kingdom," of the greatest institution that has brought men up from the caves of darkness to the light of spiritual perception, undoubtedly does more to convince the "profane" that Freemasonry does perform a spiritual mission, than the brother who tries to be active in every rite and related body, who never fails to be on hand for a colorful parade or assemblage, but who never goes to church.

The true Master Mason knows that this great mission begins at home, with family prayers and reverent attitudes that are never cheapened by vulgar anecdotes or impious profanity. Nowhere

is a Master Mason more a landmark than right at home, where his youthful followers must of necessity follow the paths of life by means of landmarks he has set up for them by his words, his thoughts, his actions.

Every Mason must be a landmark too. This is the meaning of that ringing challenge to every Worshipful Master at his installation: "Charge your brethren to practice outside the Lodge those duties which are taught within it, . . . and by amiable, discreet, and virtuous conduct, to convince the world of the goodness of our institution." And that world is no vague distant country; it's the little community in which each one of us lives, and moves, and has his being.

*Short Talk Bulletin, Nov., 1960*

## Masonry - The Mighty Paradox

Masonry is the mighty paradox of the ages.

It is not a benevolent society and yet its charities are the largest of all fraternal organizations. Our charities are the natural expression of men who have learned the genuine meaning of Charity.

Masonry does not solicit membership, yet its membership is the largest of any fraternal organization in the world.

Masonry does not claim to be a religion, yet its teaching embrace the fundamental principles of all true religions. It has only a simple dogma, The Fatherhood of God, The Brotherhood of Man. It recognizes the right of each brother to the religion of his choice, while it offers men of various religious affiliations the opportunity to meet as brothers.

Masonry is referred to as a "secret organization." It has modes of recognition which are secret, but our principles are published far and wide. More than 25,000 books have been written on the subject of Freemasonry.

The genuine secrets of Masonry are the secrets of the Universe. The acorn grows into a mighty oak, and the entire process is one of secrecy and silence. The sun proclaims a new day, and marks the close of another day, and it, too, is a force of silence and secrecy.

We see the Lodge building in the community. But still we do not hear or see the heartbeat of Masonry. We may hear of an incident where a child is given shelter and love, or a crippled child, whose parents cannot afford to pay for hospitalization and surgery, is made to walk again; a widow may receive a basket of groceries, a young man aspires to be a Mason like his Dad, and all of this is included in the vast mysteries of Masonry.

Our membership is not a membership of men who have achieved greatness, yet through the ages it has attracted the great. The poets, Goethe, Burns, Scott, Kipling, and others have left us immortal lines inspired by their love of Masonry.

Masonry is indeed the Mighty Paradox of the ages.

*Masonic Messenger*