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Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Grand Secretary on Tour

A short time ago R. W. Bro. E. H. (Ned) Rivers, Grand Secretary returned from a visit to his former home in the United Kingdom; he has been good enough to provide a resume of his trip and we are pleased to present for the enjoyment of our readers the story in his own words.

"My arrival in England on June 25th, a few hours after leaving Calgary, was tangible proof of the wonders of modern travel by air. My wife and son and I reclined in armchair comfort and partook of tasty meals, as did more than a hundred other passengers and my thoughts went back to the early 1920's, when Alcock and Brown made their attempt at an Atlantic crossing and came down in an Irish bog. Further proof of today's facilities became evident when my daughter, flying from Texas, U.S.A., landed at London airport one hour after our arrival.

I left England some forty years ago and this, the first visit my family and I have made since 1934, had been anticipated for several years. Much change, has of course, taken place, the never-ending streams of traffic, the tremendous amount of building that is so evident, all draw attention to the passage of time, but what a pleasure it was to view the many Churches, stately homes and old buildings and to think of the centuries of history that are wrapped up in them. It is still possible, too, to find some of the old lanes, unspoiled by modern development, pleasant reminders of less strenuous times.

It was a pleasurable and rather special duty that I had undertaken to perform on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Alberta on June 27th when, on invitation, I attended the Jubilee meeting of Canada Lodge No. 3527 at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London; I had been advised that the Lodge would open at 5 o'clock and that Grand Officers from Canadian Jurisdictions would enter the Lodge in procession soon after. I had previously been advised by the Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro. Col. J. W. Stubbs, that regalia would be provided, making it unnecessary to carry regalia by air from Canada.

On my arrival at Freemasons Hall I was graciously received by the Grand Secretary and had the honour to be introduced to R.W. Bro. Sir Ernest Cooper, Master of Canada Lodge in 1917-1918, who held the office of President of the Board of General Purposes in the United Grand

Lodge of England for many years, and to the Assistant Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Major-General Sir Allan Adair, Bt. and other officers of Grand Lodge.

There were well over 200 in attendance in the beautiful Lodge room, only one of several in this magnificent building and those from Canada accompanied M.W. Bro. Clarence MacI. Pitts, Grand Master of Canada in the Province of Ontario to be received by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Ian Percival, M.P., in full form. The Assistant Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and his Officers were next received; the business of the evening having been concluded before we entered, ceremonies were brief; M.W. Bro. Pitts, on behalf of his Grand Lodge, presented a set of gold Altar Jewels, suitably engraved, which were gratefully received and taken into immediate use by having the I.P.M. place them on the V.S.L. It was then my privilege to present, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, the set of three gavels in a case, all made out of oak taken from the Hudson's Bay Company store which was built in Edmonton in 1890 and replaced with a modern store about 1942. The Worshipful Master was very pleased to receive the gavels on behalf of Canada Lodge and, taking his own into use, he called upon the Senior Deacon to convey the Wardens' gavels to their respective positions. I was asked to convey the thanks of Canada Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Alberta and to R.W. Bro. David Penman. The craftsmanship of R.W. Bro. Penman and the artistic card painted by Bro. Herbert Earle, A.S.A., which accompanied the gift were greatly admired. The card has the seal of the Grand Lodge at the top, a brief statement that the gavels were made by Bro. Penman from wood taken from the "Bay" store in Edmonton, N.W.T.; the wild rose, floral emblem of Alberta completed a most attractive card.

It was a pleasure to see the following Brethren from Alberta in attendance at this historic meeting; R. W. Bro. H. D. Fawcett, P.D.D.G.M.; of Canada Lodge No. 165, Calgary; V.W. Bro. C. S. Lait, P.G.P. (134); W. Bro. C. J. Long, Bro. W. M. Garven and Bro. G. Chettleborough all of Edmonton No. 7; Dr. P. L. Backus, a Past Master of Canada Lodge is also member of Red Deer Lodge No. 12 and is resident in London.

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EDITORIAL

A few days after this memorable meeting I had the pleasure of lunching with V.W. Bro. Stubbs, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England and had an opportunity to see the whole delightful Freemasons' Hall; what a marvellous structure it is! As we reached the portals of the Grand Lodge room the organ was being played; this had been specially arranged by Bro. Stubbs and added greatly to our pleasure. One could visualize the great and important gatherings of the Mother Grand Lodge.

We spent most of July on the Continent and thence to Scotland where I attended the quarterly meeting of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in the City of Edinburgh; I was then the luncheon guest of R.W. Bro. Peter Ferguson, who for many years has assisted our Grand Lodge in handling benevolent matters in Scotland and who was elected an Honorary Past Grand Director of Ceremonies as long ago as 1937. Adding still further to my pleasure was a meeting with Dr. Alex. Buchan, Grand Secretary in Scotland, the Grand Master Mason, the Right Honourable the Earl of Eglinton and Winton and the distinguished Past Grand Master, the Right Honourable, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. Visitors at the quarterly meeting included members from Hong Kong and West Africa and many other distant points. The entire meeting was concluded in a single hour.

After two bright days in Scotland the rains came, but in sunshine intervals we were able to see much that is the glory of Scotland. We were visiting friends in the Royal Burgh of Haddington some twenty miles from Edinburgh and at Fort William in Invernesshire and from these points we covered a great deal of the land of the heather, the birthplace of my wife. The hardy folk on holiday, camping and trekking through the hills seemed to pay little attention to the torrents of rain or the sodden countryside, but we were really surprised when a camper set up his tent on a traffic island in the middle of a busy street.

Returning south through the industrial centre of England we visited Bristol; the heart of this city was completely bombed out during the war and fine new buildings are now the pride of the citizens. A few more days in Hertfordshire and it was time to return to Canada; on arrival in our own fair country we visited for some days in the Maritime Provinces during which time I had an opportunity of visiting the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia and of attending a meeting of their Advisory Board. The Grand Secretary in Nova Scotia, R.W. Bro. Sipprell kindly showed us the interesting points in and around the capital city. In Prince Edward Island I had the pleasure of a visit with the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. VanInderstine and in New Brunswick met with the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary. On Sept. 7th. I arrived back in Calgary, gave attention to pressing matters in the office and later the same day proceeded to Banff to take up my duties in connection with the Conference of the Four Western Grand Jurisdictions, of which I have the honour to be Secretary.

About the time this bulletin reaches many of our readers we will be marking that splendid day known as Thanksgiving Day and surely there is much that we, as members of the Order of Freemasonry, may find for a most sincere expression of gratitude; we are familiar with the fact that on the occasion of anniversary celebrations it is customary for us to hold "Thanksgiving Services", usually prior to any general meeting that is in prospect and there can be little question but that such services are justly due the G.A.O.T.U. for having permitted us to engage in the delightful pursuits of Masonry and all that they entail.

Doubtless there are many who maintain in their hearts the spirit of thankfulness at divers times other than on a special day set aside for the purpose and quite rightly so; but the October date, which each year is designated as Thanksgiving Day does seem to have some special significance and encourages us to pay due tribute to the power that creates for us so many opportunities through which to enjoy the pleasures of a world, which, though fraught with tensions in these troublous times, yet holds much for us to enjoy.

Those of us who are blessed with good health assuredly have reason to be grateful to a beneficent power; when we are in a position to move and have our being and when we are able to join our fellows in making our communities better places in which to live, nothing should prevent us from paying due tribute to the source of our strength; as we anticipate and know the fellowship of Freemasonry there comes to us a sense of the deepest appreciation and we may best express that appreciation by bending our efforts towards the alleviation of suffering and sorrow among those who are, perhaps, somewhat less fortunate than ourselves.

The recent tragic loss of the Secretary General of the United Nations creates in the minds of thinking men a sense of the deepest loss and can hardly fail to cause us to ponder the future of freedom, while, at the same time there are many reasons why we should be thankful for the great life that was for so long devoted to the cause of world peace and which has now been sacrificed on the altar of service.

Thanksgiving Day is much more than a time only for a bountiful turkey dinner with all the pleasant "trimmings"; it is a day, symbolic only of many other days when each of us should embrace the opportunity of giving thanks to Almighty God for the bounties he has placed within our grasp and, perhaps more important still, days when we should take advantage of our opportunities by giving expression of gratitude through a worthy contribution to all about us.

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK

Everything is farther than it used to be. It's twice as far from my house to the station as it used to be, and they've added a hill that I've just

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noticed. The buses leave sooner, too, but I've given up running for them because they go faster than they used to.

Seems to me they are making staircases steeper than in the old days. The risers are higher and there are more of them; it's harder to make two at a time. It's all one can do to make one step at a time.

Have you noticed the small print they are using lately? Newspapers are getting farther and farther away—when I hold them up I have to squint to make out the news. Now it's ridiculous to suggest that a person my age needs glasses, but it's the only way to find out what's going on without someone reading aloud to me, and that isn't much help because everyone seems to speak in such a low voice that I can scarcely hear them.

Times sure are changing. The barber doesn't hold the mirror behind me when he is finished so I can see the back of my head. The material in my clothes, I notice, shrinks in certain places, like around the waist; shoe laces are so short they are next to impossible to reach.

Even the weather is changing. It's getting colder in winter, and the summers are hotter than in the good old days. Snow is much heavier when I try to shovel it, and rain is so much wetter that I have to wear rubbers; I guess the way they build windows now makes drafts more severe.

People are changing, too. For one thing they are younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand, people my age are so much older than I am. I realize that my own generation is approaching middle age (to me that is roughly between 20 and 100), but there is no reason for my classmates to be tottering blissfully into senility.

I ran into my college roommate the other night and he had changed so much that he didn't recognize me. "You've put on a little weight, Bob", I said "It's this modern food," Bob replied. It seems to be more fattening.

I got to thinking about poor Bob this morning when I was shaving. Stopping a moment, I looked at my own reflection in the mirror. They don't even use the same kind of glass any more.

—Anonymous.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS BUSY

The M.W. the Grand Master, and other officers have been active during the past three months and have an arduous itinerary in prospect; below is a list of meetings either concluded or yet to be held, indicating that a worth while effort is being put forward to maintain active contacts between the Grand Lodge and Constituent Lodges.

Meetings already held:

- July 5th, District Meeting at High Prairie
- July 20th, Fiftieth Anniversary, Melrose Lodge No. 62, Bawlf
- Aug. 5th to 7th, Grand Master's visit to Yellowknife Lodge No. 162

Aug. 8th, Fraternal visit with Brethren at Fort Smith.

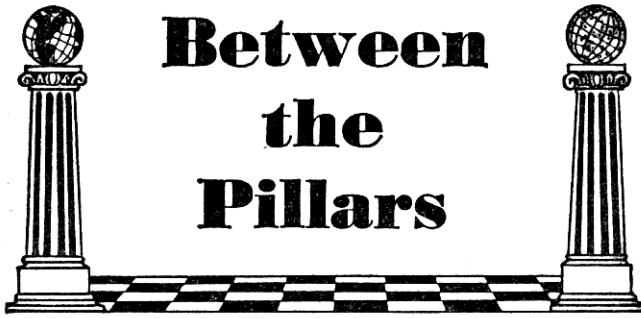
Aug. 24th, Meeting of District No. 9 at Bashaw
Sept. 7th to 9th Banff Conference

Sept. 14th to 18th visit to Grand Lodge of Colorado

District Meetings during the summer have been held at Provost, St. Paul, Whitecourt and Edmonton.

Meetings for which plans have been finalized and which should be of interest to many of our readers are as follows:

Monday, October 2nd	.....Mountain View No. 16	.....Olds	50 yr. jewel M.W. Bro. Hartman
Wednesday, October 4th	.....Britannia No. 18	.....Ponoka	G. M. Speaks
Wednesday, October 4th	.....District 19	.....Athabasca	
Friday, October 6th	.....Constitution—Sherwood	.....Edmonton	
Saturday, October 7th	.....Constitution—Drayton Valley	.....
Wednesday, October 11th	.....District No. 8	.....Stavelly	
Wednesday, October 11th	.....District No. 20	.....Edmonton	
Friday, October 13th	.....Jubilee No. 173	.....Calgary	
Saturday, October 14th	.....Alberta No. 3	.....Fort Macleod	.....75th Anniversary
Wednesday, October 18th	.....District No. 14	.....Hanna	
Wednesday, October 18th	.....District No. 15	.....Carbon	
Saturday, October 21st	.....Constitution—Bowmont	.....Bowness	
Monday, October 23rd	.....District No. 16	.....Strathmore	
Tuesday, October 24th	.....Mount Lebanon No. 54	.....Calgary	.....50th Anniversary
Friday, October 27th	.....District No. 6	.....Calgary	
Saturday, October 28th	.....District No. 7	.....Picture Butte	
Saturday, October 28th	.....District No. 1	.....Calgary (St. Marks)	
Saturday, October 28th	.....District No. 18	.....Didsbury	
Wednesday, November 1st	.....Beaver No. 56	.....Castor	.....50th Anniversary
Monday, November 6th	.....Strathmore No. 53	.....Strathmore	.....50th Anniversary
Tuesday, November 7th	.....Vulcan No. 74	.....Vulcan	
Wednesday, November 8th	.....Area Meeting	.....Medicine Hat	
Wednesday, November 8th	.....District No. 5	.....Bawlf	
Thursday, November 9th	.....Bassano No. 55	.....Bassano	.....50th Anniversary
Tuesday, November 14th	.....Crossfield No. 48	.....Crossfield	.....50th Anniversary
Thursday, November 16th	.....Provost No. 61	.....Provost	.....50th Anniversary



Between the Pillars

BASIS AND APEX OF MASONRY

H. O. Wallace (Masonry in Manitoba)

Among the foremost of the essentials of Masonry is reverence—reverence toward God—reverence toward man — reverence toward the highest, purest, grandest things that life knows. That is the one true religion—that is the very spirit; that is the dynamic force; that is the basis and apex of Masonry. Upon that it rests; upon that it exists; towards that it strives; and by that it will ultimately conquer. Whenever a man enters a Masonic Lodge he is asked that one indispensable question: "Do you believe in God?" No man can be a Mason who replies to that question in the negative. Indifference to or non-belief in God involves the trampling upon the greatest of realities that have come within the experience of man and no Mason who trifles with that greatest of realities can claim full kinship with the true Masonic spirit.

Masonry has always proclaimed that without faith in God, without reverence to Him by whose square all our actions are judged there is nothing that will stand. No human brotherhood that has not its foundations in a Divine Fatherhood can hope to succeed. With the utmost confidence Masonry comes before the world affirming that reverent faith in God which is at all times due from the creature to the Creator—that faith that gives birth to all heroic devotion, to all moral and spiritual grandeur, to all orthodox sentiments of fellowship and to fidelity of purpose which is inflexible.

When a Mason enters a Lodge he gives the symbolic knock. That represents more than the mere desire to enter. It represents the desire of God to enter, for every time the true Mason enters the Lodge he brings God with him. It is only when we bring God with us not only into intimate Masonic duties but into all our dealings with our fellow man and live in that reverence that is due to Him as the Grand Architect that we shall pave the way for the establishment of that brotherhood of which we dream and to which we are slowly moving.

That reverence is nullified unless it issues a charity which is the practical expression of our finest principles in fraternal services to our fellow men in their need. It is not too much to say that the world today is in the first stages of a great septic poisoning. The poison of class and racial

hatred, of crass selfishness and undiluted individualism is gradually making itself felt, and more than we suspect is beginning to undermine the health and sanity of man. The medicine for the sickness of humanity lies in the actual practice of this great Masonic virtue of charity. Today we talk a great deal about social schemes and social reform. It would be idle to contend that no amelioration in man's life has been effected through these schemes, have not succeeded as their sponsors had anticipated for the simple reason that behind their execution there have not been enough men, noble enough of soul, large enough of magnanimity, fine enough of character and pure enough of heart to make the dream come true. All programmes for a modern Utopia are doomed to failure unless behind and in them we have men of charitable spirit.

The great chapter of Freemasonry is the Thirteenth Chapter of First Corinthians. Since its very beginning Masonry has always emphasized the sterling values of charity. Its ritual may be stately and noble in expression. Its ceremonies may be marked with dignity and splendour; but it has ever demanded of its members the practice of charity, and in such practice it sees the keystone of its own temple. Masonry is greater than the temple, and charity wider than the application of the N.E. corner. Its temple is the world. Its service is directed toward men of all nations and all creeds, for it is satisfied that wherever the fraternal spirit is practiced in all its fullness there is the razing of all international, racial and credal barriers and men walk along a common but high level towards the appointed destiny of the race.

CORRECTION

In our September issue in an article dealing with the fine Masonic contribution of our newly installed Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Merley G. Merner, credit was given to Langside Portsoy, Scotland as being the birthplace of this distinguished Mason. It should be noted that M. W. Bro. Merner first saw the light of day at Wetaskiwin, Alberta, he being the second native Albertan to have been elected to the responsible position of Grand Master of Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction; M. W. Bro. David Little of Edmonton having been the first native of Alberta to have been so honoured.

M. W. Bro. Merner's predecessor in office, M. W. Bro. William H. Harper was proud to claim Langside Portsoy as his birthplace while the City of Wetaskiwin proudly claims M. W. Bro. Merner as her own.

The error in the historical article is regretted and we trust that both of the stalwart Masons concerned may contemplate with satisfaction the fact that while they were born so far apart, the pleasurable connection with Freemasonry in Alberta resulted in their becoming fast friends and staunch brethren.