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Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Christmas

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night—
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,—
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Alfred Tennyson.

Ring out the old, ring in the new—
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

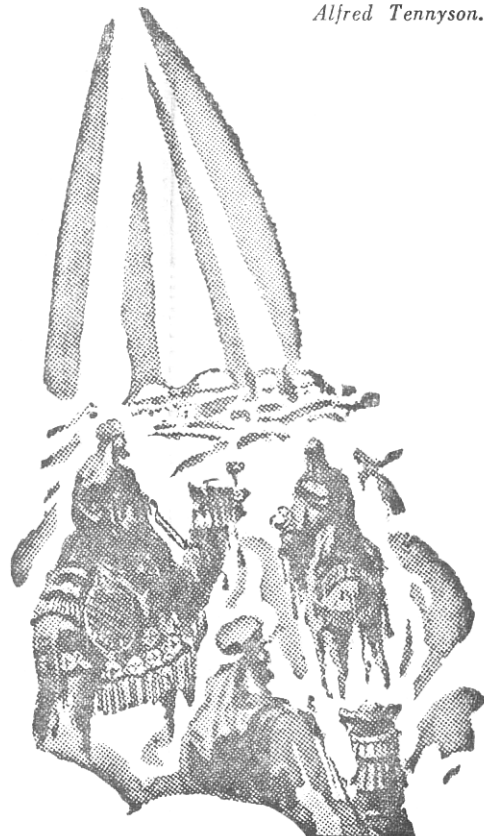
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress for all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times:
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.



EDITORIAL

In this issue of the Bulletin attention is directed to the ceremonies which marked the Seventy Fifth Anniversary of Alberta Lodge No. 3, Fort Macleod and the fact that three quarters of a century have elapsed since Freemasonry became a living and vital force in Alberta brings very forcibly to our minds the desirability of steps being taken to preserve the earlier mementos of the Craft which could so very easily be lost to us forever.

From time to time in our respective communities we hear expressions of regret that typical indications of life in our pioneer Western country are allowed to fade into oblivion and that thus future generations may be altogether unaware of many aspects of the life of those who so bravely undertook to bring the prairie land into ever increasing productivity.

It is but natural that Alberta, having been settled soon after the turn of the century by young and vigorous men and women should now be suffering the regrettable, but wholly natural loss of those pioneers on whom we have depended so greatly in the past and on whom, if we are to preserve their glorious history, we must surely still depend.

In an historical sketch prepared by R.W. Bro. G. R. Davis for presentation to those assembled to mark the 75th Anniversary of Alberta Lodge he says, "the early history of this Lodge, might, without very much of a stretch of the imagination, be said to be the early history of Southern Alberta, for, in looking over the names of men who were responsible for and instrumental in opening and building up this country we recognize, in many cases that these names appear also in the early registers of this Lodge." It is not only in the Southern Alberta area that this condition applies, but in every single section of our Province we are appreciative, and quite justifiably so, of the contribution of pioneer citizens who brought the spirit of Freemasonry to bear on their efforts to colonize and develop a Province that is now recognized as one which stands high in the regard of our people wherever they may live.

Undoubtedly many of the Charter Members of our earlier Lodges brought with them, from far across the seas, from the Provinces bordering the Atlantic or from the sprawling republic which adjoins our Canada for so many, many miles, mementos of Masonry which must not be permitted to disappear, mementos which should be preserved for future generations and for which we, while it is yet possible for us to do so, should provide proper and adequate storage and display facilities, so that those who come after us may be enabled to continually refresh their memories with respect to the great contribution of those who carried the spirit of Freemasonry in their hearts as they accepted the heavy responsibilities of the pioneer.

It is to be hoped that our Grand Lodge will take an active interest in the preservation of

NO FRIVOLITY IN FREEMASONRY

The Degrees of Freemasonry should be exemplified with earnestness and a solemnity that is commensurate with the lessons taught.

Some of our ritualists forget that they are teaching lessons of life, morals, living and Divine truth, and permit frivolity and restrained byplay to enter into their degree work. Not many do, but that's too many. Masonry's strength is in the lessons it teaches, lessons of right living, ethics and morals. Masonry cannot thrive upon frivolity. It is to be deplored when by-play or frivolity are allowed to detract from the solemn lessons there sought to be taught.

Frivolity has no part in Masonry and should not be tolerated by the Master of any Lodge. There is no place in Masonry for any conduct that tends in any way to detract from the lessons there exemplified.

A case in point are a few who play the characters in a section of the Third Degree; this section teaches of life, faithfulness to one's trust, that death is preferable to being untrue to that trust, and, that there is immortality for the souls of those who die while being faithful to true ideals and purposes of life.

There is no place for frivolity in this meeting. A story which may remind us of that fact recalls that Edwin Booth, brother of John Wilkes Booth, who shot President Lincoln, spent his life as one of the greatest players of Shakesperean tragedies of all time; he was an ardent Mason.

It is said that Edwin Booth at one time saw the exemplification of the Third Degree in his Mother Lodge and that, at the conclusion of the degree, Booth arose to say:

"In every realm of thought, in all my research and study, in my analysis of the masterpieces of Shakespeare, in my earnest determination to make these players appear real upon the magic stage (of life), I have never and nowhere found tragedy so real, so sublime, so magnificent as in the legend of Hiram. It is substance without shadow, the manifest destiny of life, which requires no picture and scarcely a word to make a lasting impression upon any who can understand."

—The Freemason.

If you think enough of a job to accept it, think enough of yourself to do your work the best you can, and you will come out on top in the final count.

—Exchange

The Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City, Utah, has many emblems of Masonic origin, including Clasped Hands, the All-seeing Eye, Beehive, Earth, Sun, Moon and Stars. On the East Centre Tower is the inscription, "Holiness to the Lord."

—The Royal Arch Mason.

worth while data, as well as objects of Masonic interest which are doubtless available today, but which may be so easily lost to us and to our Brethren of the future.

S. C. H.

WITHIN THE CRAFT IN ALBERTA

ALBERTA LODGE CELEBRATES

The members of Alberta Lodge No. 3, Fort Macleod, with a large gathering of visitors from thirty-five Lodges, met on October 14th last to mark seventy-five years of fruitful service; distinguished Masons attending included M.W. Bro. Merner, Grand Master of Alberta; M.W. Bro. W. A. Prugh, Past Grand Master, Manitoba, and M.W. Bro. Frank Van Demark of Montana, several Grand Lodge officers and Brothers John Collins, C. W. Stephens and H. T. Halliwell, all three of whom are members of Alberta Lodge who have been honored by presentations of Fifty Year Jewels. The pleasure of the evening was further enhanced by the presence of R.W. Bro. H. Gunn, of Spitzie Lodge, oldest living P.D.D.G.M. of District No. 8 and V.W. Bro. J. S. Stewart of Lethbridge.

R.W. Bro. W. J. Collett conducted an inspiring Service of Thanksgiving while R.W. Bro. G. R. Davis gave a most interesting historical account of the Lodge from its inception in the year 1886. Fort Macleod is well known as one of Alberta's more historical places and the pioneer spirit which prevailed fifteen years before the turn of the century led to the formation of this lodge under the Grand Jurisdiction of Manitoba; it was most fitting, therefore, that Past Grand Master Prugh of Manitoba was able to attend and to bring greetings from his Grand Lodge.

Sketches of early members which had been prepared by V.W. Bro. A. H. N. Kennedy, Registrar of the Lodge a quarter of a century ago, proved of unusual interest to the gathering and the members of Alberta Lodge were pleased to receive from the hands of the Grand Secretary a set of beautiful gavels, handiwork of R. W. Bro. David Penman of Edmonton, rapidly becoming known as "Gavel Maker in Chief" to Lodges in Alberta.

Members throughout the Province extend congratulations to Alberta Lodge in their appreciation of such long and distinguished service to Freemasonry in Alberta.

THREE LODGES CONSECRATED

The past month has seen the Consecration of three Lodges in the Province, the pleasant meetings in each case being in somewhat sharp contrast to the marking of 75 years of service by Alberta Lodge as outlined above and being, at the same time, indicative of the continued keen interest in Freemasonry throughout our Grand Jurisdiction; the Lodges which are now entering upon what will doubtless be worthy contributions to Freemasonry in Alberta are those numbered consecutively as No. 181, 182 and 183 and are located at Bowness, Drayton Valley and Sherwood Park, towns in our Province which represent progress and which will doubtless play an important part in the future welfare of the Province and add lustre to the part that Masonry must take in orderly development and expansion.

Drayton Valley Lodge No. 182, serving a rapidly developing oil centre was consecrated on October 7th by M.W. Bro. Morley Merner, assisted by Grand Lodge Officers, past and present, with R.W. Bro. Rev. W. J. Collett acting as Grand Chaplain in place of R.W. Bro. Hart Cantelon, who was inadvertently prevented from attending the meeting. The Installation of Officers was conducted by M.W. Bro. David Little, who had officiated at the Institution of the Lodge during his term of office as Grand Master.

Visitors were present from several Lodges and a special welcome was extended to V.W. Bro. A. W. Gilbert of Gleichen, a member of more than 52 years standing and presently Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

An Especial Communication of Grand Lodge was held at Sherwood Park, adjoining the City of Edmonton on October 6th when Sherwood Park No. 183 was consecrated by M.W. Bro. Merner, the Charter Members and Acting Officers being presented by M.W. Bro. R. S. Sheppard and the Officers were installed by M.W. Bro. W. H. Harper, who was Grand Master at the time of the Institution of the Lodge on September 15th, 1960.

More than 240 members and visitors assembled in the Salisbury United Church for this pleasing event and it is interesting to note that twelve of the Worshipful Masters of Edmonton Lodges assisted in the ceremonies attending the official launching of Sherwood Lodge.

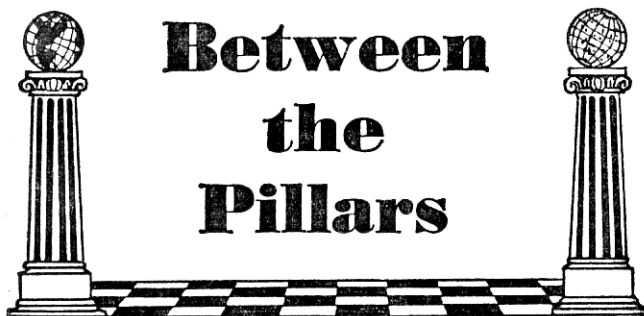
Bowmont Lodge No. 181, located in the Town of Bowness and closely affiliated with the City of Calgary was the scene of the third Consecration during October when Grand Master Merner presided at the ceremony which added another link to the already strong chain of Freemasonry in Alberta; with an attendance of 130 members and visitors the gathering was an impressive one and following the Ceremony of Consecration an opportunity was given for the enjoyment of fellowship.

Notable among the visitors, in addition to a number of Grand Lodge Officers was R.W. Bro. D. H. Galbraith, a Charter Member of Vulcan Lodge No. 74 and also a Charter Member of Bowmont Lodge who has suffered blindness for many years; his reminiscences were most interesting as he outlined events of by-gone days which included his having initiated M.W. Bro. D. D. McQueen's father into Masonry many years ago.

The addition of three new Lodges is most satisfying indeed and will be pleasant news for members throughout the Grand Jurisdiction.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Copies of the report of the 1960 Banff Conference are still obtainable through the office of the Grand Secretary as are copies of the Grand Lodge Proceedings; material that is eminently suitable for Masonic study is contained in each of these books and their more general use is strongly recommended.



Between the Pillars

A NEW GRAND LODGE FOR INDIA

Arrangements are now being made for the inauguration of the Grand Lodge of India in November, 1961, when the Lodges meeting under the charters of the English, Scottish and Irish Constitutions in that country will come under the control of the new Grand Lodge and will have charters numbered according to their establishment under their Mother Grand Lodges. His Highness the Nawab of Rampur has been recommended as the first Grand Master.

The establishment of a sovereign Grand Lodge is a natural development of the granting of independence to India, and for some years the Grand Masters of England, Ireland and Scotland have been considering the question. Eventually a steering committee of eighteen members was set up to advise them on the steps to be taken. Of the eighteen, ten were Hindus, four were Parsees, two Christian, one Muslim and one Sikh. The Hindus comprised Brahmins and non-Brahmins. All came from the various states and linguistic zones. The Committee worked diligently and their report and recommendations have now been accepted by the three Grand Masters and so the way is clear for the establishment of this new and very important addition to the sovereign Grand Lodges of the world. According to the Indian Masonic Journal, the matter is before the Lodges for consideration but little doubt is entertained as to its acceptance.

The Constitution of the new Grand Lodge will follow the English Book of Constitutions with adaptations to suit the peculiar conditions of India. This recommendation was made because there were more English Lodges than Scottish and Irish. The Grand Master of India will be elected by a representative body which has been termed an Electoral College and he will hold office for three years and be eligible for re-election. He will appoint Regional Grand Masters who will hold office also for three years. All Lodges in India will be placed under one or another of these Grand Lodges. The English custom of the Worshipful Master appointing his officers, including the Treasurer, will be followed. The headquarters will be in Delhi and the quarterly meetings of the Grand Lodge and the Annual Investiture Festival will be held in every region in turn. All Lodges will continue to use their present rituals with English as the language. If any other language is desired, the Lodge has to seek the approval of the Grand Master. Likewise, the daughter

Lodges are to retain their present regalia in the interests of economy. Grand Officers under the present District Grand Lodges are to have equivalent rank in the new Grand Lodge.

No decision has as yet been made in regard to the Royal Arch Chapters, as this question is fraught with difficulties. It is thought that a Steering Committee may be appointed to consider this matter.

It is evident that not much doubt is entertained about the proposal being adopted by the Indian nationals, but it is expected that some of the Lodges composed entirely of expatriates may elect to continue to work under their Mother Grand Lodge. This, it is said, will make no difference; it will merely mean that there will be four Constitutions instead of three and no barriers between them will be raised.

At any rate, the three Grand Masters of England, Ireland and Scotland are arranging to visit India in November to be present at the inauguration of the new Grand Lodge, and no doubt representatives of sister constitutions all over the world will be present to convey greetings at one of the most important Masonic occasions of the present century.

—The West Australian Craftsman.

TIME AND THE ART OF THINKING

Time wasted is existence; when used it is life. It is our ability to know what is a waste of time that enables us to use it correctly.

What life has been trying to show us is how to build a reasonable thought. The art of thinking, the art of honest enquiry, the art of thinking straight, thinking simply, thinking quite a lot of the time, is a legacy given to all persons.

Life has taught us many subjects, some of which we never used but learning them has not been a waste of time. Life has a real purpose of introducing us to the art of thinking. It is possible to live to a ripe and healthy age without having indulged in it once.

We sometimes find original thinking painful; we usually inherit our politics and almost invariably our religious beliefs.

We would rather do almost anything else than think. We would rather talk than think.

Talking is no waste of time if one thinks and evaluates before speaking. Gossip is a waste of time; envy is a waste of time; revenge is a waste of time. Envy saps one's vitality; revenge hinders progress; gossip is vicious. The great do not envy; the successful are too busy for revenge; the gossipers retard and weaken.

Time wasted thoughtlessly is existence; time used thoughtfully is life.

BOOK AUTHORITY DIES

Marks and Company of London, are booksellers extraordinary; they have a large collection of Masonic volumes. Their principal authority on Masonic manuscripts and books was G. Plummer who died in February, 1959. He was a Roman Catholic.