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Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Past Grand Master Attends Inaugural in India

M.W. Bro. G. H. Crane-Williams, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta 1945-6 is a much travelled gentleman and not long ago while paying a visit to Japan learned that the Grand Lodge of India was soon to be inaugurated, whereupon he altered his plans to the extent that he was an interested visitor when the ancient and impressive ceremonies of the formation of the Grand Lodge of India were carried out; he has thoughtfully forwarded a report of the proceedings to the Bulletin and we are pleased indeed to convey to our readers this sterling report for their pleasurable reading.

Having in mind the necessity of utilizing column space to the best possible advantage it has been necessary to delete or alter certain of the information so kindly given us by M.W. Bro. Crane-Williams, but, in essence, we are proud to give you an almost verbatim report of one who quite evidently holds the membership in Alberta in the highest esteem and remembrance.

"The inauguration of a Grand Lodge of Freemasons is an experience not often given to Brethren and to witness the endowment of sovereign rights at the hands of illustrious Brethren from the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland is an entirely unique experience. It was my good fortune to be privileged to attend the Constitution and Consecration of the Grand Lodge of India and I have the pleasure to report herewith.

After the British had relinquished control of all that constituted Hindustan, it was inconceivable that so vastly important an organization as Freemasonry, which had flourished since the early years of the eighteenth century and had attracted to itself thousands of the various peoples of that great country should forever remain subject to another Masonic jurisdiction.

Over the years India has produced some wonderful Masons, Hindoos, Islamites, Parsees, Sikhs and Pakistanis, as well as Britons and the ultimate formation of a Grand Lodge has long been in mind. Fortunately, through the years, there emerged a leader who, in his own person epitomised the ideal Grand Master, His Highness, the Nawab of Nampur who is a Major General

of the Indian Army, bearer of many honours, civil, military and Masonic.

The Sovereignty of the State of Nampur was conferred upon the Nawab's family by the Mughal Emperor, Mohammed Shah, in the dawn of the eighteenth century and the recently installed Grand Master was one of the first among the territorial rulers to merge his state with the present democratic Republic of India.

For the Constitution of the Grand Lodge some sixteen hundred Brethren assembled in the banquet hall of the Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi and all arrangements, precise and effective, lent dignity to the entire proceeding which had for so long been in prospect as a means of correlating the work of Freemasonry in India.

On the altar were opened five sacred Books, the Square and Compasses laid upon the Bible. Each was used when obligating officers according to their respective exemplification of Faith.

The Grand Master Mason of Scotland, M.W. Bro. the Earl of Eglinton and Winton assumed the chair for the Consecration Ceremony, consecration being made "to God and His Service and in memory of the Royal Solomon. Appropriate passages were read from the Prophet Nehemiah and the Psalms, the assembled Brethren joining in the recital.

The First perambulation was made by the Grand Master Mason of Scotland who scattered corn as a symbol of plenty and abundance, the Second perambulation was made by the Deputy Grand Master of Ireland, R.W. Bro. George S. Gamble, pouring wine, the symbol of joy and cheerfulness, while the Deputy Grand Master of England, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Cadogan poured oil during the final perambulation, as a symbol of peace and unanimity. The Ceremony of Consecration was then completed under the direction of the Deputy Grand Master of Ireland who recited the Invocation to God, during which the Brethren turned to the East.

The Grand Chaplain perambulated the Lodge with Incense, censuring the four Corners and the Brethren, and then, in the name of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland and by command of their respective Grand Masters, the

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EDITORIAL

Just two years ago, in this editorial column, attention was directed to the extremely serious results possible to Freemasonry through the injudicious use of careless remarks or immorally suggestive stories during refreshment periods following Masonic meetings. It is a matter of the deepest regret that it is felt desirable, at this time, to repeat a suggestion that dubious stories have no place whatever at any Masonic meeting, whether during the actual meeting or at a time when the members relax to enjoy the fellowship that is so closely joined to the precepts of the Order.

Doubtless thoughtlessness alone permits the use of suggestive stories at our gathering and this editorial is not intended in any way to intimate that there is any widespread use of such stories as an entertainment medium, but any single deviation from a strict code may have repercussions of the gravest significance to a young Mason, or may have the result of lessening the love and respect for the Craft which is so firmly in the minds of many who have enjoyed membership for varying periods.

We are about to welcome a young man, a minister of the Gospel, into our Lodge; during his initiation he will hear the beautiful words of a charge which, I am sure, will dispose him most favourably towards the Craft of his choice and it would be a pity indeed if, during a following refreshment period some member or visitor were to stray into a field of anecdote from which no possible benefit might accrue but from which, rather, the candidate might obtain an altogether incorrect impression of Freemasonry.

During the initiation ceremony a skilled Mason will address the candidate in part in these words: "As an individual I am further to recommend the practice of every domestic as well as public virtue. Let prudence direct you; temperance chasten you; fortitude support you; and justice be the guide of all your actions, and be especially careful to maintain in their fullest splendour those truly Masonic ornaments, benevolence and charity." You are doubtless familiar with the many other beautiful words of the charge to the newly made Mason, the Mason who will surely never be more impressionable than on the occasion of his reception into Freemasonry; in his mind will be created visions of the beauty of the Craft; to permit a careless word or remark bordering on the profane to utterly destroy the image we so carefully seek to create would be unthinkable and could be only the result of thoughtlessness, a thoughtlessness which has no place whatever within the confines of a Lodge of Freemasonry. May I make so bold as to suggest that a digest of this editorial be read at the next meeting of each Lodge so that there may be no possibility of a moment's lack of thought creating a serious lack of appreciation and understanding of all that lies behind the beautiful philosophy of Freemasonry.

S. C. H.

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Deputy Grand Master of Ireland constituted and formed the assembled Brethren into the Sovereign Grand Lodge of India.

Labour continued without intermission and here followed the Ceremony of Installation of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master. The Installing Master was the Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl of Cadogan; it being the expressed wish of the Brethren, His Highness, the Nawab of Nampur, Grand Master Designate was escorted into the Grand Lodge and placed in position to receive the highest honour in the gift of the Masons of India. After reading from the Book of Chronicles, the Grand Master Designate knelt for the recital of the following prayer:

"Almighty Father and Supreme Governor of the Universe, Who has blessed and prospered our Order in the years that are past, and not least in the devotion and high character of those who have presided over it, vouchsafe Thine Aid to this, our solemn assembly, and grant that this Most Worshipful and distinguished Brother, who is about to be installed as First Grand Master of the Indian Craft, may be endowed with wisdom, judgment and ability that he may be enabled to perform the duties of his high office. Pour down upon him Thy Grace and strengthen him with Thy mighty power, that he, being loyally supported by the loving obedience of his Brethren, may continue to labour for the good of the Order and to the honour and glory of Thy Most Holy Name."

The Deputy Grand Master of England then obligated the Grand Master Designate, investing him according to his new rank and placing him upon the Throne; the appropriate proclamation was made by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.W. Bro. W. G. Douglas and the new Grand Master was saluted by the Eleven G or R. S.

The Grand Master then appointed and invested his officers, including a Deputy Grand Master, Three Assistant Grand Masters and four Regional Grand Masters, the latter imperative owing to the widely spread Jurisdiction over which the new Grand Lodge extends.

The Representatives of the Grand Lodges of Scotland, Ireland and England addressed the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, fittingly expressing the goodwill of their respective Grand Lodges and the vast concourse assembled for the important event and in response, the Grand Master said in part:

"I joined Masonry over thirty years ago because I sincerely believed in its tenets and principles. Ever since, I have constantly and consistently tried to live up to its teachings; I am thus firmly of the opinion that Freemasonry is of value in India and that there is vast scope for it in our present circumstances. I shall not spare myself in the task of promoting the good of Freemasonry in this country and I am fully

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Within the Craft in Alberta**ACME LODGE No. 60 MARKS ANNIVERSARY**

The members of Acme Lodge No. 60 celebrated their 50th Anniversary a short time ago, the occasion being marked by the presence of M.W. Bro. M. G. Merner, Grand Master and a large number of visitors; a Service of Thanksgiving was conducted under the direction of Bro. the Rev. Ian Holter and a most interesting historical review given by R.W. Bro. A. C. Bates. Following a toast to the Grand Lodge of Alberta by Bro. J. B. Wenger, the Grand Master delivered an address complimenting Acme Lodge on a fine record of achievement throughout its half century of progress.

An interested visitor on this pleasing occasion was W. Bro. W. White, now resident in Calgary and who, during his term as Master of Cyprus Lodge No. 113, Three Hills in the year 1922, along with the officers of his Lodge conferred an E.A. Degree in Acme Lodge and who had not since visited the celebrating group.

PLEASING CEREMONY AT LETHBRIDGE

Bro. T. Earl Morris, Secretary of Lethbridge Lodge No. 39, had the unique and pleasant task recently of presenting to W. Bro. A. S. McColl, Worshipful Master of Lethbridge Lodge a gavel which had been used by W. Bro. McColl's father while he was Master of Mallaig Lodge No. 1056, situated in the Scottish Highlands. During one of three terms of office as Master of the Lodge R.W. Bro. John McColl had the honour of initiating Lord MacDonald of the Isles at Armadale on the Island of Skye. In 1924 R.W. McColl was elected Deputy Grand Master of Inverness-shire,

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confident that my Officers and Brethren will give me their support and co-operation."

For special services to the Craft in general and Freemasonry in India in particular, the rank of Past Deputy Grand Master was conferred upon the following Brethren: T. V. Muthukrishna Aiyar; His Highness the Maharajadhira of Patiala; Lieut. General Sir Harold Williams; W. M. Sundaram and Shyam Kinkor Ghosh, while His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore was given the rank of Past Assistant Grand Master.

Among the distinguished visitors was the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Israel who paid fitting tribute to the newly installed Grand Master and presented to him a gavel made of cedar from the forests whence came the timber for the construction of King Solomon's Temple.

Numerous addresses were given by the distinguished representatives of Grand Lodges from all over the world and suitable gifts presented. The Grand Lodge of Alberta is proud to have been represented by our own distinguished Brother and former Grand Master, M.W. Brother George H. Crane-Williams and to him we are indebted for this resume of an event that served to form one more great link in the world chain of Freemasonry of which we are so proud to be a part.

and at that time was the youngest member to have held that high office. In 1951 he was a visitor in Lethbridge to attend the wedding of his son and at that time was welcomed to Lodges in the City of Lethbridge. He passed to the Grand Lodge above in 1954.

The memento now in the hands of W. Bro. A. S. McColl will doubtless be treasured for all time, recalling, as it must, the distinguished Masonic career of his late father and indicating one more valued tie between the historic Lodges of the Highlands of Scotland and the newer, but nonetheless enthusiastic Lodges of our new land.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

By the time this Bulletin is in the hands of readers nominations for the various offices of Grand Lodge will have been closed for the current year and in the near future Lodges will be advised as to the names which have been placed in nomination and members of Grand Lodge will doubtless begin to give consideration to the necessary selection of those who will guide the destinies of our Grand Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year.

There must be general appreciation of those members who permit their names to go before Grand Lodge as candidates for office and it will be freely accepted that they seek office not for personal aggrandizement, but because of the fact that their nominators feel that they have a contribution of value to make to Freemasonry in Alberta.

Perhaps the most vital election with which we will be faced is that to the position of Junior Grand Warden, because it is practically axiomatic in our Grand Jurisdiction that once a member is elected to that position he is virtually certain to be Grand Master in the not distant future. Whether too great stress should be laid on the geographical aspect which affects candidacy or whether the financial or social status of the candidates should be considered in making a selection is doubtless open to question, but there should surely be no doubts in the minds of all who are entitled to cast ballots as to the fact that we should select the candidate best able to direct the work of Grand Lodge and to correlate the efforts of constituent Lodges.

One thing is sure—and that is that EVERY LODGE in Alberta should be represented at Grand Lodge in June, so that the democratic right of adequate representation in the Councils of the Grand Lodge of the future may be fully protected. Not only is attendance at Grand Lodge a pleasure but it is also an obligation on the part of every elected Master and Warden—an obligation that should not, under any circumstances, be neglected.

The prosperity of a country depends not on the abundance of its revenues, nor on the strength of its fortifications . . . it consists in the numbers of its cultivated citizens, in its men of education, enlightenment and character. Here are to be found its true interest, its chief strength, its real power.

—Martin Luther.



Between the Pillars

COWANS EAVESDROPPERS

Afton F. Flannery, W. M. Research Lodge of Colorado

Since civilization began the world has been plagued by these unscrupulous characters classified as "Cowans" and "Eavesdroppers"—as being unworthy of associating with all true and upright people. Time has advanced, but the human species has remained much the same; as it was in the beginning, so it is at the present and the duties of the officer whom we know as the Tyler have remained the same as in long past days.

First, the "Cowan"—this is purely a Masonic term, and signifies an intruder, whence it is always used with the "Eavesdropper." It is not to be found in any of the old manuscripts of Old English Masonry before the 1800's.

However, it does appear in the "Schaw Manuscripts," a Scotch record dated 1598, which lists the following: "That no Master or Fellow or Craft shall receive any cowans to work in his society or company, nor any of his servants to work with cowans." In Anderson's Constitution of 1738, we find English Masons using the word thus, "Free and Accepted Masons shall not work or associate with cowans, nor shall they teach cowans."

There is little doubt that the word, as a Masonic term, comes to us from Scotland. Jamieson in his Scottish Dictionary gives the following meaning of "Cowan," (a) a term of contempt applied to one who endeavors to do the work of a Mason, but has not been properly bred or trained; (b) Also used to denote one who builds dry walls of loose stone; (c) One unacquainted with the secrets of Freemasonry; (d) A pretender who does inferior work for lower pay.

Jamieson's derivations are from the old Swedish word "Kujon," a silly fellow; and from the French word "Coyon," a coward, a base fellow.

The word "Cowan" therefore, without doubt comes to the English lodges from the early Operative Masons of Scotland, among whom it was used to denote a pretender or an unskilled workman.

The early Greeks were also plagued with the "Cowan," so-called by the Greek word "Kuon," a dog, classed as infidels.

In the early ages of the Church when the mysteries of the new religion were communicated only to initiates under the veil of secrecy, infidels were called dogs, as suggested by the passages from Matthew 7:6, "Give not that which is Holy

to dogs." And from the Philippians 3:2, "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of concision."

No matter how we get the word, it seems always to convey the idea of contempt for that which is good in the eyes of God and man. As it was in the beginning, so it remains today.

"Eavesdropper"—the word eavesdropped is not supposed to be classified as purely Masonic; by the fact that all society was plagued with his operations and practices. The word, however, was common in the English language prior to 1717 as well as to the Scotch and French accordingly.

Early Blackstone defines the offender thus: "To listen to what is said or done within; to listen secretly to what is said or done in private and thereupon to frame and make public slanderous and mischievous tales; are a common nuisance and presentable at the court; to be indicted and punished as the court may direct, by fine, sentence or both.

The usual penalty for such offence as directed in the Old English Manuscripts prior to 1717 was, "To be placed under the eaves of the house in rainy weather until the water runs in at his or her shoulders and runs out at his or her heels; time limit for dunking as the court may direct."

Hence the listener, so detected and punished, is called an "Eavesdropper" by the nature of the penalty and also by the method of operation, i.e., by secreting oneself near the various openings of the buildings, doors, windows, and under the porch or eaves of the building, we get the word eavesdropper.

Our ancient brethren well knew that the "Cowan and Eavesdropper" was an enemy to their civil society, and so it is today. Therefore the universal charge to the Tyler remains the same—"To keep off all Cowans and Eavesdropper."

—Square the Compass, Colorado.

VERMILION LODGE ESTABLISHES MUSEUM

The members of Vermilion Lodge No. 24, being desirous of retaining items of Masonic interest for the future enlightenment and benefit of members of the Order, recently took decisive steps to provide suitable museum space and accommodation for mementos of the earlier days of the Craft in Alberta. A committee under the direction of Bro. Robt. Allan was established to secure a major portion of the necessary funds through the subscriptions of the members and to proceed with the construction of suitable cases in a room allocated for this desirable purpose.

On more than one occasion this paper has urged the establishment of such facilities within the Province and congratulations are extended the members of Vermilion Lodge on this forward step.

It is felt that there are many items of Masonic value and interest in the Province and Vermilion Lodge will welcome the loan or the outright gift of such pieces and suitable acknowledgment will be made in every case of contribution of Masonic memorabilia.