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# Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

## A Message From Our Grand Master



M.W. Bro. the Rev. W. J. Collett

*Elected as Junior Grand Warden at the June, 1961 communication, M.W. Bro. Collett has progressed through the respective offices of Grand Lodge until he now assumes the gavel as Grand Master of Masons.*

*In civil life M.W. Bro. Collett, after a distinguished career in the ministry of the United Church, is now Principal of Mount Royal College, in which capacity he is able to make a most sincere impact upon the lives of young people of our Province.*

To be called to assume the high and demanding office of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta is a challenge and a responsibility. I have accepted it well aware that, to discharge the duties connected with the office, will require every particle of ability that I may possess. I am grateful to the Brethren of the Craft in Alberta for their confidence in me and to the multitude of Masons who have had a share in preparing me for and assisting me to this position. Conscious of your sympathy and support I have dedicated myself to the heavy tasks that await me. I am certain that your co-operation and the resources of the Great Architect of the Universe will provide strength sufficient unto the hour. Alone, I am not endowed with the power or the ability to accomplish those things which you have a right to expect of me, but united with you and Him, it will be impossible to fail.

I hope that this year will go down in the history of the Grand Lodge as a time when the Masons of Alberta rediscovered the foundations and the purposes of our great Fraternity; as a time when thousands of the Brethren rededicated themselves to the pur-

suing of the eternal truths contained in our philosophy and precepts. Already our Committee on Research and Education is hard at work attempting to provide every Lodge with programmes and materials for study and action. I have every confidence that the work of this Committee will be the basis of our progress during this year and commend to every Lodge a serious consideration of their proposals.

It is my desire to see as many Lodges at work during this year as time will permit and to bring to you what inspiration may be given to me. In this enormous undertaking I bespeak your help and your prayers. Any success that may attend these efforts will not accrue to my personal glory or aggrandisement, but will be for the health and welfare of the Craft which, I hope, we all dearly love.

## EDITORIAL

Members of the Fraternity throughout the Province will join the Bulletin in extending congratulations to Most Worshipful Brother Collett and the officers who will be working with him for the next year, R.W. Bro. Lauder, R.W. Bro. Towers and R.W. Bro. Bernie Brown, named by majority vote at the recent sessions of Grand Lodge as Junior Grand Warden. That their term of office will be fruitful is a foregone conclusion and there is little question but that every member of the Order in Alberta will be ready and willing at all times to give of their capabilities for the advancement of the tenets of Freemasonry.

The incoming officers will have the experience of their predecessors together with the tower of strength so readily recognizable in the enthusiasm and expert knowledge of our Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. E. H. (Ned) Rivers, to guide them as they administer the affairs of Grand Lodge in the best interests of all concerned.

All will join, too, in acknowledging the forthright service of the Immediate Past Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Hardin; he has been most active in promoting every worth while concept of Masonry and I am sure that all will wish him well as his year of office as Grand Master fades into memory.

M.W. Bro. Hardin has, almost to the total exclusion of his dental practice, devoted a major portion of his time in the past year to the welfare of Freemasonry; he has kept the Grand Jurisdiction of Alberta well to the forefront, not only among Canadian Grand Lodges, but throughout the entire North American continent; he has been ardent in extending the hand of fellowship on behalf of our entire membership and it must indeed be with satisfaction that he lays down his gavel and takes his place among the multitude, knowing full well that he has maintained the fine traditions of Masonry which have been established over the years by a succession of devoted men occupying the high office of Grand Master.

He will be able to say, with each one of his predecessors in office, and with Robert Burns who said, with a great depth of feeling, when he sang of his Lodge many, many years ago:-

"Oft have I met your social band,  
And spent the cheerful festive night;  
Oft honor'd with supreme command,  
Presided o'er the sons of Light;  
And by that hieroglyphic bright,  
Which none but craftsmen ever saw!  
Strong mem'ry on my heart shall write,  
Those happy scenes, when far awa'."

S.C.H.

## GRAND LODGE BULLETIN REPORT

*Published at Request of W. Bro. J. S. Woods,  
Chairman of Committee.*

It is my privilege to report on the Grand Lodge Bulletin; it is, however a difficult assignment, for my simple tongue can coin no new praises adequate to convey to the editor, M.W. Bro. S. Carl Heckbert, the appreciation of this Grand Lodge for his unstinting devotion to an onerous but all-important task. His monument is comprised in the editions of the Bulletin published and edited under his careful hand. He has discharged his task in both letter and in spirit within the frame of reference accorded to him.

Masonry, however, although immutable in its principles, is ever changing in its approach to the problems it must face in the particular times and society in which it exists. This form of change has been reflected in a questioning by many Brethren, and in some previous annual reports, of the basic purpose of the Bulletin. The great cry of the present and the immediate past is and has been for greater communication between the component parts of our Order in this Jurisdiction—a cry which has brought forth the Area Meeting and the broadened programme of activity by the Research and Education Committee.

Yet here at hand is the one instrument which regularly meets each and every member of the Craft in the Jurisdiction. It is the one instrument most adapted to the needs of the Craft in Alberta today. It must be admitted that full advantage has not been taken of its potentialities and that the Editor's terms of reference must be expanded.

The Finance Committee has recommended that the per capita assessment for the Grand Lodge Bulletin must be increased. It is here recommended that a thorough examination of all aspects of the Bulletin be undertaken in an attempt to broaden its basic purpose. In so doing it must be quite clear that no one man, not even a Carl Heckbert, can carry the burden of a Masonic publication designed as an exchange of Masonic ideas, problems and solutions in this Grand Jurisdiction—every District, every Lodge, every Officer and Member must be enlisted in aid and support of this valuable adjunct to Freemasonry in Alberta.

*The Editor greatly appreciates the kindly reference in the above report and would most certainly appreciate any constructive proposals that might lead to the enlargement of the scope of the Bulletin and the influence which might reasonably be expected to be exerted on the Craft.*

*Contributions from within the Province have been invited in the past and the invitation is repeated most sincerely at this time.*

## CONSTITUTION AND CONSECRATION POLARIS LODGE NO. 186, FORT SMITH

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. W. J. Collett enthusiastically entered upon his duties as Grand Master on July 4th, when, accompanied by a large group of Grand Lodge Officers and others, he journeyed by air to Fort Smith, for the purpose of constituting and consecrating a new Lodge in the North country at Fort Smith.

In addition to the group emplaning at Edmonton, a number of Brethren from Yellowknife attended the meeting, adding colour and inspiration to the interesting and historic event.

A complete list of those attending the meeting is not possible in the limited space available, but those occupying the senior offices were as follows: M.W. Bro. W. A. Henry, as I.P.M.; R.W. Bro. A. J. G. Lauder, D.G.M.; V.W. Bro. K. A. Philpott, Grand Master's Representative, N.W.T.; R.W. Bro. T. G. Towers, S.G.W.; R.W. Bro. B. Brown, J.G.W.; R.W. Bro. P. I. Aikens as G. Treas.; R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers, G.S.; R.W. Bro. E. J. Thompson, Grand Chaplain; V.W. Bro. Henry Taylor and W. Bro. A. Oulton as Deacons; V.W. Bro. W. B. T. Tilson, G.D. of C.; V.W. Bro. J. E. H. Tidswell as Grand Pursuivant; R.W. Bro. John Booth as Grand Tyler and R.W. Bro. O. A. Tabor; W. Bro. W. Van Dusen, W. Bro. M. Pound, W. Bro. D. McCarroll and W. Bro. W. L. Yorke as Grand Stewards; others assisting in the impressive service of consecration were W. Bro. R. W. Derraugh, W. Bro. G. E. Sparks, W. Bro. H. E. Shacker, W. Bro. N. Luciow, W. Bro. T. E. Bate, W. Bro. G. E. Self, W. Bro. N. Beaton, W. Bro. J. M. Iverach, W. Bro. J. O. Walli and W. Bro. G. F. Smith.

An interested visitor was Bro. B. Severtz, a member of Vancouver-Quadra Lodge No. 2, G.R.B.C., Commissioner for the North West Territories.

W. Bro. R. J. McLeod of Yellowknife Lodge acted as installing Master and placed W. Bro. George Gordon in the East and invested the other officers who will be in charge of Polaris Lodge in its initial year. W. Bro. S. E. McElwain acted as Director of Ceremonies.

Addresses were given by the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master and Bro. Severtz and Polaris Lodge was launched on what promises to be a most rewarding career. The bulletin is pleased to extend congratulations and best wishes on behalf of the members of the Craft throughout this Grand Jurisdiction; with the enthusiasm displayed by all concerned it appears a happy omen for the future of this far North Lodge.

### PROMINENT MASON ELEVATED

M.W. Bro. F. P. Galbraith, well known Past Grand Master and community leader of Red Deer has been named as Chancellor of the University of Alberta and all Masons join in extending the most sincere congratulations.

## PERSONAL MERIT, PREFERMENT AND PARROT MASONS

### L. A. Batros in the Ashlar

In all the old constitutions we find a reference made to ability and skill as the only claims to preferment or promotion. Thus, in one of them, the Lansdowne Manuscript, whose date is about 1560, it is said that Nimrod gave a charge to the Freemasons that "they should ordaine the most wise and cunning man to be Master of the King or Lords work that was amongst them, and neither for love, riches, nor favor, to set another that had little cunning to be Master of the work, whereby the Lord should be ill served, and the science ill defamed."

And again, in another part of the same manuscript, it is ordered, "that no Mason take on him no Lords work nor other man's, but if he know himself well able to performe the work, so that the Craft have no slander."

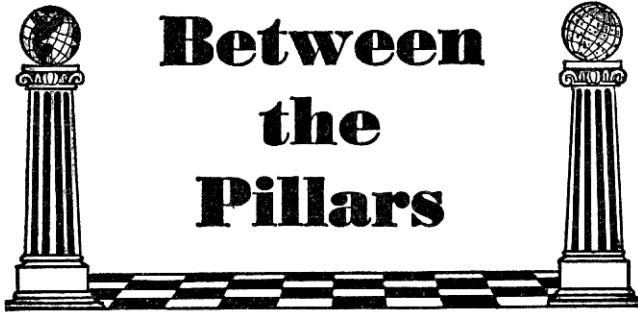
Charges to the same effect, almost, indeed, in the same words, are to be found in all the old Constitutions. So Anderson, when he compiled the Charges of a Freemason, which he says were "extracted from the ancient records", and which he published in 1723, in the First Edition of the Book of Constitutions, lays down the rule of preferment in the same spirit and in these words:

"All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only; that so the Lords may well be served, the Brethren not put to shame, nor the royal Craft despised; therefore no Master or Warden is chosen by seniority alone, but for his merit.

Then he goes on to show how the skilful and qualified Apprentice may, in due time, become a Fellow Craft and, "when otherwise qualified, arrive to the honour of being the Warden, and then Master of the Lodge, the Grand Warden, and, at length, the Grand Master of all the Lodges, according to his merit."

This ought to be now, as it has always been, the true law of Freemasonry; and when ambitious men are grasping for offices, and seeking for positions whose duties they are not qualified to discharge, one is inclined to regret that the Old Charges are not more strictly obeyed.

Parrot Masons are said to be those who commit to memory the questions and answers of the catechetical lectures, and the formulas of the ritual, but pays no attention to the philosophy and history of the institution. They repeat what they have learned without any conception of the true meaning. In former times, such superficial Freemasons were held by many in high repute, because of the facility with which they passed through the ceremonies of a reception, and they were generally designated as 'Bright' Masons, but the progress of Freemasonry as a science requires more than a mere knowledge of lectures to constitute a Masonic scholar.



THROUGH IGNORANCE, RIDICULE

From the Indiana Freemason

THIS IS A TRUE STORY. The names and places are sufficiently concealed, I trust, that it will not be embarrassing even to those few who know the circumstances.

Many years ago, perhaps as many as 75 years, a small 'boom' town appeared on the map of Indiana. Let us call the little village New Berkshire. Almost as soon as the first lots were sold there was organized in New Berkshire a congregation made up of followers of a certain Protestant sect which devotes much of its energies to raving and ranting about the iniquities of Freemasonry. We shall call it Bearcreek Church.

As time went on, the congregation of Bearcreek Church grew and prospered. An imposing edifice was erected in which many good and sincere believers worshipped. It acquired land for a cemetery, plotted the lots and became recognized as sole owner with responsibility for care and maintainance of the burial ground.

For years it was *The Church of New Berkshire*. Members of the congregation held all positions of importance in the town; no others need apply. It literally 'called the shots'. Its members professed vigorous belief in the separation of Church and State, but did not do a very good job of practicing that particular tenet of their faith as is so often true when any religious organization has a clear majority.

Under the circumstances, of course, Freemasonry made no effort to establish a Lodge, for it was on the blacklist. Perhaps thirty years went by before a few souls dared to think and talk about the possibility of forming a Lodge. By that time the power of old Bearcreek Church had begun to decline to some extent. The older members went to their reward; their children moved away and intermarried with those of other faiths until it was no longer the leading congregation in town. Two competing religious sects, each thoroughly despised, began to gain recognition. Repairs on the Bearcreek Church building were neglected and it began to look seedy.

Then the time came when there was an insufficiency of funds, manpower and leadership to take care of the cemetery. The ruling fathers of the Bearcreek Church were realistic enough

to know that something must be done. And, wonder of wonders! Looking about for an institution of stability and integrity in which the entire community might place confidence, old Bearcreek reached the conclusion that the Lodge of Freemasons (which by this time had been formed) was the ideal organization with which to leave its deathbed trust.

Today the old edifice is gone, leaving only blue grass and a few windswept trees to stand as memorials to a once proud past. In the cemetery the grass is green and neatly clipped; the winding driveways are gleaming white with gravel and stone; the peonies bloom for Memorial Day and the Freemasons, once under suspicion as tools of Satan, carry on their trust.

All of which serves to remind us of the familiar charge to the Entered Apprentice, so often forgotten and yet so eternal in its wisdom:

*"Neither are you to suffer your Zeal for the institution to lead you into argument with those who, through ignorance, may ridicule it!"*

#### TESTLE BOARD SKETCH

*"to correct the errors"*

Which of us, when they told us that, gave a thought to the responsibilities involved? But few, in all probability!

Comparatively an easy matter when all this is involved is the correction of realistic errors, dependent upon a thorough knowledge of concrete facts, and having in reserve a precise authority for consultation, but far from simple when the seeming errors involve such points as those of doctrine, or dogma, or philosophy, or, perhaps, of personal thinking, or opinion, or character, or way of life.

It was Dean Roscoe Pound who pointed out that every world-organization has been wrecked upon its own dogmatism—the taking of dogmatism, the interpretations, and the philosophy of its youth for a fixed order of nature.

Here might be suggested a few thoughts for the Master Mason called upon "to correct errors".

No guarantee of sagacity is conferred by the assumption of authority.

Principles must not be side-tracked by thoughts of expediency or opportunism.

True it is that times change and we must change with them, but the changes are in the incidentals, not in the fundamentals.

Decisions should be based upon an intelligent examination of the factors involved. The consequences of decision must be faced in action.

The Master Mason is a builder—the wrong cannot be effectively dealt with by merely denouncing it.

Criticism is worthless unless accompanied by constructive effort.

Harry G. Palmer, P.G.M.,  
in Iowa Grand Lodge Bulletin.