

GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA A.F. & A.M.

Vol. 1.

February 1936.

No. 3.

THE MASONS OF THE EMPIRE MOURN THEIR KING

The citizens of every country regret the end of a great and good man, but none mourn his loss more sincerely than the Freemasons of the Empire.

Not a Mason himself, the late King came of a notably Masonic family. His Father, King Edward VII, his Uncle the Duke of Connaught and three of his sons have all held exalted positions in the Fraternity.

King George never hesitated to show his interest in the Craft. In the first year of his reign he became Grand Patron of the three Masonic institutions and Queen Mary the Patroness of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

On repeated occasions he addressed the Fraternity in glowing terms and on every occasion showed his appreciation of the loyalty and devotion of Freemasons throughout the Empire.

On June 23rd, 1917, the occasion of the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, his message to the assembled brethren was brief but full of his own splendid qualities:

"The traditional loyalty of British Freemasons is a force upon which the Sovereign of this country has ever reckoned, and has been to me a proud memory during the anxious years through which we are passing."

Again in 1933 when he opened the Royal Masonic Hospital he left no doubt as to his feelings for the Craft:

"I am deeply moved by the further proofs I have received of Masonic loyalty and affection towards my Throne and myself. It gives both the Queen and myself great pleasure to come here and thus show our continued interest in the Craft of which many of our family are members."

Perhaps no more fitting tribute could be paid the late King George than to reverently mark him as the model of that part of the ceremony of installing the officers of a Lodge when the ideal of a Freemason is portrayed.

"If you see a man who quietly and modestly moves in the sphere of his life; who without blemish fulfils his duties as a man, a husband and a father; who is pious without hypocrisy, benevolent without ostentation, and aids his fellow men without self-interest; whose heart beats warm for licensed pleasures, who in vicissitudes does not despair, nor in fortune will be presumptuous, and who will be resolute in the hour of danger."

Such a man was his Gracious Majesty King George V. He has crossed to the undiscovered country and the Masons of his Empire mourn.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

One of the most important functions of the Committee on the Condition of Masonry is to analyze the financial condition of each lodge. D.D.G.M's. are expected in each instance to secure a copy of the financial statement for this committee. Many of these statements have already been received from lodges whose year ended in June. The Chairman of the committee, R. W. Bro. V.H. Macaulay would ask any Secretary who has not forwarded a statement to his D.D.G.M. to do so immediately the 1935 statement is available, so that he can, after studying the same, send it in with his report.

LODGE INTEREST

In the smaller Lodges there are often evenings when there is little business on the Notice, no Degree work, and no visitors to enliven the evening. If such evenings occur too often, there is a danger of ennui and disinterest setting in. It is the duty, and should be the decided ambition of every Master to have something of interest on every Notice.

Kilwinning Lodge #110, at Innisfree spent a very pleasant and unusual evening a few months ago. The Third Degree was exemplified, but instead of the usual officers taking part, it was decided that no P.M's, no Wardens and no experienced Masons should have any portion of the work. An exception was made in the case of the brother who acted as the C. For this onerous position, the brethren selected, with great glee, a Past Master upon whom it was thought it would be a delight to practice. The glee lasted only sixty seconds, as the Past Master proved so efficient that the brethren considered they could not have found a C. who was more dumb, more obstreperous, and more difficult to handle, if they had combed the ranks of outsiders.

The work was divided equally among 9 brethren, and the whole ceremony flowed smoothly and efficiently from start to finish. The most surprising outcome, even to the 9 workers themselves, was the large amount of interest and enjoyment derived by these 9, as well as by the onlookers, which latter, by reason of their greater skill, came first in the guise of critics, and ended as an enthusiastic audience.

Which merely adds a further proof to the oft repeated statement, that the more work one has to do in Masonry, the greater becomes one's interest and liking.

Contributed by the Lodge
Secretary.

THE DEMAND FOR FREEMASONRY

That which is demanded of Freemasonry is that it should gradually reshape men's minds and put them into proper channels by a sound, regular and uniform educational process. The application of science to the means of communication and transport has forced the world so closely together, and made its relationships so much more difficult, that need for moral control and direction have become more glaringly obvious. We must call men to standards about which they must be convinced. It must be possible to substitute on behalf of any ethic that claims stability that it is integrally woven into the true pattern of man's life, and those standards must grow in conviction with his own growth in experience, so that these convictions will have the same standards of interpretation throughout the world. Freemasonry can offer to thinking men these definite moral standards.

The Victorian Craftsman
- Australia

GRAND SECRETARY'S NOTICE

The Grand Secretary states that from comments made to him, it is possible that some lodges may not have received any copies of the first two issues of the Bulletin, or that the Secretaries of these lodges have neglected to announce in lodge the receipt of the same. The fact is, a few Masters of the lodges have stated that they did not know the Bulletin had ever been issued, for they had never seen or heard of it.

If any lodge has not received their three copies of each of the December and January issues, write the Grand Lodge Office and they will be supplied.

ENGLAND'S LOSS

Two great Britons have crossed the bar and journeyed into that country from whose bourn no traveler returns. Yes, these two men may be thought of at the same time and spoken of in the same breath. King George was the symbol of everything that stands for Great Britain and its far-flung Empire. Kipling was as British as the Union Jack.

Wherever the English language is spoken, and in scores of realms of foreign tongue, these two men have stood out through the years, one in the realm of government, the other in the world of literature. Each through his own effort has attained the greatest heights of achievement and enjoyed the profound respect of the entire world.

What more could be said of man? What greater life could have been lived? Every Mason, Every American might well pause and reflect at such time and take unto himself the sorrow that has befallen our sister country.

There is a ray of hope ... the works these two men have wrought during their eventful lives will live forever. The world is a better place for their having lived. May our sorrow and mourning bring the English-speaking nations still closer together toward peace and good will over all the earth.

May the light of their lives illuminate the path of civilization in the years to come.

- "Masonic Tribune" - Seattle.

Friendship - like the garden - must be cultivated.

It is a fine compliment to be able to say of a man that he quickens the pulse of any group he joins.

MASONIC EDUCATION

Until recently, when a person applied for membership in a Masonic lodge, because of a favorable opinion preconceived of the Institution, it was pretty much a one sided deal. The Lodge knew all about the applicant; the applicant knew nothing about the Lodge, and practically nothing about the Order. There is a growing conviction in many Grand Jurisdictions that this is unfair to the applicant, when he is accepted and becomes a candidate, and does not conduce to the strengthening of the Craft.

Uninterested (because disappointed) Masons constitute the largest liability in Masonry today. A remedy for this condition is suggested by the use of what was originally known as the Massachusetts Plan of Masonic Education, which provides that the candidate be instructed before initiation as to the nature of our Institution so that all possibility of misunderstanding is removed. This plan, with modifications to suit their own Constitutions, has been adopted by several Grand Jurisdictions on this Continent and here in Alberta a few lodges are using the plan. Explanation and instruction are also given after the conferring of each degree, so that the candidate receives a progressive education, which makes the degrees intelligible.

If any Lodge is desirous of trying this plan of education for its initiates, a full explanation of the system can be obtained upon request to the Chairman, R. W. Bro. H. R. Chauncey, Committee on Masonic Research and Education, Grand Lodge Office, Calgary.

THE MEANING AND MESSAGE OF MASONRY

Freemasonry is neither an investment in finance nor an insurance against pecuniary need; it is not a refuge for the improvident; the unsuccessful or the incompetent; it makes no promise of world preferment or social advantage. But it is an investment in self-betterment, social service and good fellowship; also an insurance against lack of friends and isolation.

The symbolism of Freemasonry shows clearly that the Craft is more than a Brotherhood, that it is a republic of the entire world. It has its votaries among all tongues, nations and creeds. Its motto is: Liberty, equality and fraternity. Its government is purely democratic. It enjoins obedience to law, order, discipline and subordination to legitimate authority. It is a fraternity where Brethren are pledged to each other's defense and support. Whilst holding itself aloof from creeds, Freemasonry maintains a principle broader than any creed, and that principle is that man is sovereign of his own mind and not subject to the dictation of another, but yet he always deals charitably with the opinions and judgment of others.

Its message is that all members of the Craft should more and more make themselves familiar with the inner meaning of Masonry, acquaint themselves with the teaching of its symbols, and thus seek to translate that teaching into every phase of life.

Rev. Joseph Johnson -
Masonic Sun.

Masonry was never founded upon numbers; its basic requirement is character, and the ability to carry out an obligation assumed. Without this no man is fitted to become a Mason, still less to remain a Mason.