

GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

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

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YOUR GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE.

To all my Brethren, Greetings:

By the will of Grand Lodge at its recent session held in Edmonton the task of directing the Craft in Alberta for the coming year has devolved upon myself. It is with a deep sense of humility and realizing my own limitations that I assume the great responsibility. The many expressions of loyalty and proffered assistance leave one with the determination that we shall all work together and that united we shall not fail.

It is a matter of very grave concern that the slowly healing wounds of the depression have broken out again for many of our people. The great crop disaster of the North American Continent finds its North Western fringe biting out a large portion of Southern and Eastern Alberta. After such a promising start in the spring we realize something of the keenness of the disappointment of those affected. The sympathy of the whole jurisdiction is extended to them. Fortunately the Northern portion of the Province will harvest from three-quarters to a full crop. The Peace River country is blessed with a phenomenal crop. This situation suggests the theme of this brief message of toleration and co-operation.

Out of the many fine teachings of Freemasonry emerges one, "Toleration", which it seems to me is so particularly apt for the moment. It is doubtful if there ever was a time in the history of this country when divisions between class and class, and neighbor and neighbor were so pronounced. Bitterness and misunderstanding are all too prevalent. It is not a time for hot words but rather clear heads and straight thinking. Passion and prejudice are not akin to ultimate public good. If humanity is on the march and it would seem to be so, Masons and Masonry can play a great part by promoting understanding and toleration. One of life's hardest lessons to learn is that we should be a more severe judge of ourselves than our neighbor. If we do not agree with the opinions of another, let us be just and concede to him the right to hold a fair opinion. Toleration is the alter ego of charity.

There is a great challenge to Worshipful Masters during the periods of absence of degree work. At such times through the exercise of the elements of leadership, the lodge can make its most effective contribution as an integrating factor in promoting the flow of Masonic Fellowship. To accomplish this, brethren must meet together under the benign influence of the lodge, tread the mosaic pavement together, mutually sharing each other's hopes, aspirations and disappointments. The spirit of co-operation quickly emerges from such a splendid base. It is my earnest desire that we shall all work to this end for the current year.

Let our watchword be TOLERATION, and then Co-operation will surely follow.

V. Harold Macauley - Grand Master.

"A day scarcely passes at this Season of the year when I do not contemplate the trees so soon to be stript, and say, perhaps I shall never see you clothed again; every year as it passes makes this expectation more reasonable, and the year, with me, cannot be very distant when the event will verify it. Well - may God grant us a good hope of arriving in due time when the leaves never fall, and all will be right."

- William Cowper, the poet, in
A Letter.

"The Scottish Bi-Centenary"

Masonry has flourished in Scotland from time immemorial and it is a fact that the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) has minutes dating back to the 16th Century, but the Grand Lodge of Scotland dates from its formation November 30th 1736 when thirty-three lodges met in Mary's Chapel Hall and elected their first Grand Master William St. Clair, Laird of Roslin, whose family held an ancient claim to the hereditary Grand Mastership of Scotland and which claim he surrendered in a formal document before the election took place.

On the 28th of November next the Grand Lodge of Scotland will commence to hold the Bi-Centenary Celebration commemorating this event. The ceremonies will occupy a week during which H. R. H. the Duke of York will be installed as Grand Master Mason. Invitations have been sent to all Grand Lodges with whom the Grand Lodge of Scotland holds fraternal relations. It will no doubt be very gratifying to members of this jurisdiction to know that Alberta will be represented by our Grand Master in person.

There he will meet Grand Masters and Grand Lodge representatives from almost every part of the world where a Grand Lodge exists. A unique opportunity of exchanging views and opinions which cannot fail to be of immense value, not only to himself but to this Grand Lodge, is his, for we know he will use the information and experience gained for the benefit of Masonry here. We wish him Godspeed, a pleasant journey and a safe return.

"Between silence and scandal there is no golden mean. Choose silence."

André Maurois.

THE DISTRICT MEETINGS.

The annual notice of a series of District Meetings has gone out from Grand Lodge offering groups of lodges opportunity to counsel together, to meet the elected officers of Grand Lodge and to hear the views and program of the newly installed Grand Master.

One of the difficulties of a Grand Lodge Communication is that items of interest contained in the reports of special committees may be passed over without the consideration they deserve. This was the fate of the present Bulletin. No doubt was left in the Editor's mind that on the whole the Bulletin is favorably received but no opportunity was given to discuss the Bulletin as a separate project nor to offer suggestions for its improvement.

"In a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom" so it seems an interesting topic of discussion could be introduced into the District Meetings and bring out the opinions of the members. Is the Bulletin meeting the need for which it was created? Is it adequate? Could it be improved and obtain wider circulation under a subscription plan? Could it implement and help the work of other committees, the Board of Benevolence and the Committee on Research and Education, for example? Can it help the individual lodges by publishing more extended papers on masonic topics or answering questions? Such are a few suggestions for discussion.

It should not be overlooked in any discussion that the present Bulletin is circumscribed in size and appearance by the financial appropriation made by Grand Lodge all of which is used for paper, printing and postage. Criticism of the material used is invited however, and the

Editor would very much like to know whether he is supplying what is needed or not. Perhaps D.D.G.M.'s and W.M.'s into whose hands this issue of the Bulletin may come will use these suggestions as part of their program at the forthcoming District Meetings.

MULTUM IN PARVO.

The monthly issue of this little sheet may appear to be but a small affair, but life is made up of small things and their accumulation makes great things. It is surprising to look over the seven issues published and to see how the accumulation makes quite a neat volume of comment. Lodges which have kept these copies from the beginning should continue to do so and those which have not, are urged not only to begin now but to endeavor to obtain copies of the numbers which have gone before.

Again it is urged, too, that there is little use of these copies being stuffed into the Secretary's file. They should be read at a lodge meeting soon after receipt. Fifteen minutes will do it and if one man gets one idea from each issue the work of assembling and publication is worth while.

Comments by individuals are welcomed any time and material which would be of interest to the brethren will be specially appreciated. But please do remember the limitations of space!

District Secretaries will confer a favor on the Editor if they will briefly report opinions expressed at the Annual District Meetings. Address A. M. Mitchell, 10941 88th Avenue, Edmonton.

"I AM A FREEMASON."

"Two thousand years ago the proudest words on human lips were the boast 'Civus Romanus sum' - 'I am a Roman citizen,' and those who had not the privilege by birth sometimes purchased it at a great price. It was a high privilege but it carried with it a great obligation. I ask you whether the same thing cannot be said of that great boast that is on your lips and mine so frequently, 'I am a Freemason'. A proud boast, yes, but a real responsibility and an ever-present challenge. Surely, to be a Freemason means something more than mere membership in a lodge and the privilege of wearing a square and compass on your coat lapel".

"Brethren, if you were called upon tonight to place your finger on the weakest point in Freemasonry, as you and I know it, I wonder where your finger would stop. Personally, I would have no hesitation, for it seems to me that the weakest point in our system, the chink in our armor, is the fact that so many of our Brethren do not really believe in the reality of Freemasonry with the result that because we fail to demonstrate Freemasonry in our every-day lives, we thereby fail to propagate our Institution, and we stultify the very thing of which we are proudest".

"Let us remember that if fellowship is the basis of membership in a Freemason's Lodge, individual character is the basis of fellowship, for the worth of any institution depends on the personal qualifications of the men who compose it. Even Christianity itself begins with the regeneration of the individual and it has no belief in the regeneration of society apart from that. It is so with Freemasonry."

"Freemasonry can develop a saving modicum, a leaven of public opinion,

which if we are true to our training, will examine all the questions that trouble the world so much to-day with minds broad-based upon the only successful theory of life that has emerged from the long travail of humanity - that God is good, that he is our Father, that true happiness comes only from obedience to His will and dependence upon His love, and that in all our relations with our fellow men we are to regard them as our brethren. This is the cure for the ills of the world."

From an address to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts by M.W. Bro. Frank A. Copus, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario.

FREEMASONRY AND POLITICS.

While Freemasonry does not concern itself on questions of politics, yet it does urge every member of the Craft to keep himself informed upon the great issues which influence our national life. No loyal Freemason can be indifferent as to what his country is doing or what legislation it is enacting. It is his duty to be well informed so that when he goes to the polls he may vote in an intelligent manner and thereby help maintain these ideals for which Freemasonry stands and which are ever the basis of good government.

Masonic Journal,
South Africa.

"It is through cracks in our brains that ecstasy creeps in."

Logan Pearsall Smith.