

# GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

## GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA ~ A.F. AND A.M.

Vol. 3

September 1937

No. 1

### THE MASONIC ROAD

The endeavor to meet the responsibility with which the Craft in Alberta has entrusted me this year can only be successful through the continuance of that co-operation so well exemplified in the recent harmonious communication of Grand Lodge. Problems of many kinds may confront the Order, and doubtless at times the personal opinions and desires of the members will have to be held in leash, that harmony may continue as progress is attempted on the road chosen by the Craft.

World conditions are still unsteady and uncertain. Leaders, governments and nations look seriously and sincerely for a solution of present day perplexities. But attempts are being made to change civilization by methods opposed to the principles of Freemasonry and Brotherhood. Masonry has stood the strain of this testing time, but still our Institution must continue to stand true to its foundation principles, to teach its votaries to do the right, irrespective of all selfish consideration, and to leave the decision of his duty to the individual brother. Every member, before associating himself with any movement, should enquire carefully to make certain if he is equally in sympathy with its principles as its suggested advantages. If each remains true to his Masonic teaching our Institution will help to make ways, that at the moment appear uncertain, lead eventually, by a common road, into a new system of social justice by which humanity may push on to a higher and better form of civilization.

It is the season of our District Meetings. These constitute one of the most important factors for Masonic welfare in the jurisdiction. Each District Deputy Grand Master has made considerable effort to make your meeting most useful, but the results of his work are governed by the attendance of the brethren, and it is my request that every brother possible be present at his District Meeting. It is my intention to use the opportunity afforded at these meetings to make a personal contact with the brethren, which I hope may be mutually helpful.

C. C. HARTMAN,  
Grand Master.

### REVIVAL

The primary purpose of the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge is to transact the business of Freemasonry as it concerns this Province, to hear reports of those who have governed us for the year past and to elect those who will carry on for the year to come.

Any local group of a wide-spread organization is apt to become parochial and self-centred so that in addition to the obvious things at Grand Lodge there is the opportunity for the representatives of the constituent Lodges to rub shoulders with each other, exchange views and carry back to the brethren at home something of the wider implications of the Order to which they belong. In this, the Annual Communication serves as a priceless annual renewal and its effect on the constituent Lodge is in direct proportion to the energy, interest and observation of the accredited representative.

While the published Annual Proceedings tell the story, cold print lacks the individual touch and Lodges which send no representative to the Annual Communication fail to receive just that personal inspiration. It is none too soon to begin planning for representation in 1938 and as an immediate objective we can think of none better than that every Lodge in the Province plan now to be represented at the Annual Communication of 1938.

Small but definite indications of a Masonic revival are apparent here and elsewhere. The inspiration for such a revival must come from Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge is composed of constituent Lodges scattered over the length and breadth of the Province. It follows that the concentrated enthusiasm of Grand Lodge must be distilled from the enthusiasms of the Lodges, and that can only be engendered by action of the right kind in the Lodge and out of it.

With the opening of another Masonic "season" the Lodges may well begin with an examination of the Proceedings of this last Grand Lodge, a careful examination of the provisions of the new Constitution, an exact knowledge of which too many Lodges were found to be sadly lacking, and from these ponder how the action and influence of their own lives may be improved to the point where a definite contribution to Freemasonry in general as represented by the Grand Lodge of Alberta can be made by personal representation at the next Masonic Parliament.

A.M.M.

### FREEMASONS AND WAR

Freemasons as a part of the responsible and decent strata of society owe it to themselves and to the principles for which they stand to use every possible means in their power, in every way and in every place to decry propaganda for war...striving to inculcate peaceful ideas by every means in the minds of all with whom they come in contact. Great deeds may have been done upon the battlefield, but greater by far lie within the power of those who earnestly seek to benefit their contemporaries; to insure to posterity a modicum of happiness by espousal of the cause of peace.

The Masonic Craftsman.

BRITISH FREEMASONRY

To the general world (and especially in those countries from which it has been banned) it must seem strange to see Freemasonry in England honoured with the patronage of the Royal Family and with the most exalted in the land acting as its chief officers, while abroad it is condemned root and branch.

British Masonry must be judged by its own record; it is not responsible for Masonry as practised elsewhere. The origins may be and, no doubt, are the same; the ritual may be similar, or in certain cases identical. But there is no universal organization and common membership and the result, happily, is that British Freemasonry is entirely free from those obnoxious traits which are said — often only with too much justice — to spoil what is otherwise excellent in Continental Freemasonry.

Against Freemasonry no fewer than five Papal bulls have been launched, on the ground that it is opposed to true religion, and that its doctrines are subversive of all authority, both spiritual and temporal; nor is it denied that some of the foreign lodges are hotbeds of revolutionary enterprise. No doubt the chosen spirits of Continental Freemasonry could, if called upon to do so, enter a very vigorous defence of their respective systems, and would disassociate themselves from any responsibility for the rank weeds which have sprung up within their gardens. But the point which concerns us is that here, in this country, the weeds we have spoken of do not exist, and neither Church or State have the slightest reason to look with suspicion or disfavor upon the rapid growth of Freemasonry.

Wherever there are mystery and initiation, a certain section of the uninitiated imagine they can distinguish ugly shapes in the dark, but British Freemasonry has a long and honorable record, and it has never meddled either with politics or religion. To fear God and honor the King, and to practice the duties of brotherhood in its best sense, such has ever been, and still is, the cardinal doctrine of British Freemasonry.

The Freemason (London.)

CEDARS OF LEBANON TO FLOURISH AGAIN ON THEIR NATIVE HILLS

The British Director of Agriculture and Forestry in Palestine has inaugurated a five-year plan to restore the famous Forest of Lebanon where grew that species of cedar so well known to Bible readers and so popular with the Masonic Fraternity. Only a few scattered clusters of these precious cedars were to be found in the Lebanon mountain range when the present undertaking was launched. Less than a dozen of the very oldest trunks which are still standing are believed to be of the parent species used in building Solomon's Temple, "An house for the name of the Lord".

The significance of re-foresting the hills, denuded of their beautiful cedars, was emphasized by appropriate ceremonies in which the local inhabitants and officials of the government took part. The British Government proposes to spend about eight-thousand pounds annually on the plan.

ART THOU SUCH A CRAFTSMAN?

How often we hear men query, "What is it that makes a man a Freemason?" What would you say if so interrogated to satisfy such an inquiry and yet not reveal to the interrogator those things which actually make a man an honoured member of the Craft? There are those who have the opinion that by going through certain forms and ceremonies, and signing documents they are full-fledged members of the Craft. In fact, some appear to come to that conclusion the moment they affix their signatures to the roll of membership and sign the by-laws. It takes more than that to make a man a real Craftsman. It is not membership that qualifies a man to be a Mason any more than just sitting in a pew in a Church makes a man a member of that church or confers upon him a religious belief.

What then shall we say is the force or influence which does make a man a worthy Mason? If men who seek to find in the institution preferment or advantage in the commercial realm or seek admission from other equally undesirable motive it were better that they never enter its doors. If a man is seeking some new sect of religion he will be disappointed for Freemasonry is tolerant of all religious beliefs that recognize a Supreme Being and does not claim to be a substitute for religion.

So, first of all the Masonic initiate must be willing to follow the principles laid down for Masonic government. He must banish thoughts of self-interest and in their place seek to develop a desire to be of service to his fellow men in becoming identified with a society of friends and brothers.

He must be charitable in word, thought and deed, because Freemasonry embraces within its ranks men of every country, sect and opinion. If he would live in accordance with its teachings, he must do unto others as he would that others should do unto him. He must pay homage to the Creator of heaven and earth, for there is no opportunity within its ranks for one who has no regard for a Divine Creator.

He should in all cases avoid intemperance and excess. He should keep his mind and body clean. He should walk uprightly before God and his fellows and deal justly with all men.

This to many may appear to be a hard program but when one stops to think what turmoil and unrest there are in the world today, it gives cause for anxiety as to what these selfish motives will produce if given the opportunity to extend. Freemasonry must be a bulwark against such methods. It should be the stabilizing power to teach men of the world by precept and example that the best methods of success are attained by co-operation and by confidence in each other. Such conduct will quickly determine Freemasons from members as well as from the profane.

Digested from "The Masonic Herald".

It has been said that the essence of Christ's religion is found in the words "He went about doing good". There is enough religion and philosophy in that phrase to save humanity. If each one lived by that rule his belief or the language of his creed would be immaterial. Most of the world's problems would automatically disappear; civilization would be freed of its fears and misgivings.

"Masonic Sun" - Toronto.