



GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

Editor: A. M. Mitchell, P.G.M.

Retrospect

THE Thirty-fourth Annual Communication of Grand Lodge has come and gone with its usual crop of triumphs and disappointments. On the whole the Communication ran true to form and revealed once more the enormous amount of time and effort expended in a year for the good of the Order.

Perhaps the outstanding items on the Agenda were the Report of the Committee on the Revision of the York Work and that of the Special Committee on Grand Lodge Finance.

The work of the York Committee was adopted by an overwhelming majority and implementing its recommendations is now well forward so that comment at this late date may seem superfluous. We do deprecate, though, some of the comment after the debate. It was plainly evident that most of the delegates were in favor of a curtailed form and appreciated the long continued and painstaking work of a Committee which had scrupulously avoided innovations or changes in fundamentals. It seemed apparent that no Committee's findings could satisfy every individual and that the final revision had to be something of a compromise. To refer the report back to the individual Lodges would have resulted in confusion worse confounded and a delay of years perhaps in reaching a decision.

We believe the report from a carefully selected committee of six skilled craftsmen representing every shade of reasonable opinion was an excellent piece of work deserving the commendation of the brethren and leaving little reason for ill-natured comment then or in the future.

The Report on Finance revealed that our operating revenues will just "get by." Hope for increases from a rising roll of membership may not be ill-founded but there is no reserve for any special project befitting the style and dignity of Grand Lodge. An extra dime a year, so little to any active Lodge, would have made all the difference between penny pinching and having a dollar in reserve but the notorious tendency of our people to expect the maximum of service at the minimum of cost, the utter disregard of the amount of work gratuitously done as a labor of love and that specious hope that someone, someday, somehow, will foot the bill were disquietingly in evidence.

The appointment of a special committee on Grand Lodge elections promises relief from the present

tedious process. We suggest, as further time savers, a roll call of Grand Representatives without the presentation of formal greetings, or as alternative an open invitation from the Grand Master without roll call to Grand Representatives to take the floor and present their greetings in the customary fashion.

Then District Deputy Grand Masters should be exhorted to keep their reports on the floor of Grand Lodge to a time maximum of five minutes. A little preparation would ensure this. Their complete findings are studied and summarized in the Report of the Committee on the Condition of Masonry and while their fine work should and must be recognized, somewhat repetitious oratory should be curbed for the benefit of those Brethren unfortunate enough not to be located in the "best District" in the Jurisdiction.

When one calmly examines the annual proceedings of Grand Lodge, he is left with a certain sense of much ado about nothing. We wrangle about form and detail, over order and precedence and fail to consider the wider implications of Freemasonry and its fate and fortune in a changing world. We muddle along in the well-known tradition of our British heritage but we believe there are times and occasions when, without creating catastrophe to Grand Lodge, the Landmarks or the traditions of the Craft, we might shed some of the "touch not" attitude of ultra-conservatism and mix an occasional spot of youthful optimism and enthusiasm with the routine and too often colorless procession of our ways.

Ten years ago we had the temerity to suggest we were in competition with other altruistic organizations. We still think so but the competition is keener now!

Perhaps if Grand Lodge were to spend more time in debating such problems as the appeal of Freemasonry to modern youth and less in dotting each "i" and crossing each "t" in routine detail the sessions would be more colorful and the effect more marked in bringing home to Lodges and individuals that Freemasonry is not a business of pomp and ceremony but a way of life, hoary with age, changing in detail to match the passing decades but losing nothing of its eternal purpose, the husbanding and promotion of sterling character and mutual endeavor.

A.M.M.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

The confidence of his Brethren in reappointing him to carry on the publication of the *Bulletin* for a fifth term is deeply appreciated by the Editor. The discussion on the *Bulletin* indicates that he continues successfully to provide the type of material required and he will endeavor to continue to do so.

Letters from Lodges and Brethren expressing opinions on the contents of our *Bulletin* are always welcome and again these are cordially invited.

A.M.M.



THE KING INSTALS HIS BROTHER

IN the Mother Grand Lodge there is a tradition that the newest Grand Master shall be installed by a Past Grand Master of his Grand Lodge. But three with the necessary qualification are living, the Duke of Windsor, living abroad, the Duke of Connaught, precluded from service by advanced age, and His Majesty King George VI who graciously consented to perform the ceremony.

On the evening of July 19th, 1938, more than 12,000 Masons saw the pageantry of Freemasonry at its best and most glorious when at Olympia, London's greatest auditorium, His Majesty the King installed his brother the Duke of Kent as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Grand Lodge was opened by the Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Harewood, who proceeded to receive His Majesty in the following words: "If your Majesty in your capacity of Past Grand Master will do us the honor of installing the Grand Master, the pleasure of this vast assembly of Brethren from all parts of the world will be completed."

His Majesty then assumed the Throne with the customary ceremonies and addressed the new Grand Master:

"Most Worshipful Grand Master, it gives me great pleasure to come here today to instal you, my own brother, as Grand Master of English Freemasonry. As you know, except for one period of thirty years, a member of our House has occupied the Throne of Grand Master for over a century and a half. For the past sixty-five years this Throne has been filled first by our grandfather, King Edward VII and then by our great-uncle, the Duke of Connaught, who is beloved by men and Masons through the world. During this period, English Freemasonry has prospered in a remarkable manner. It will be no easy task for any Mason to follow in their footsteps, but I have every confidence that you will succeed in the office to which you have been elected by your Brethren. This great and representative gathering of recognized Freemasons, who have come from all quarters of the globe to greet you on this occasion, will indicate to you the support you may expect in the future. You know that you have my good wishes, and as a brother Mason, I shall always follow with great interest your rulership of the Craft and the progress of our Order."

The King then conducted the ceremonies of obligation, investiture and installation when the Duke of Kent assumed the Throne as Grand Master. Im-

mediately followed expressions of greeting from the Grand Masters of Ireland, Scotland, the Netherlands and Massachusetts.

The new Grand Master received a tremendous ovation and in response said, in part:

"My first thoughts are of gratitude to H. M. the King for graciously performing the ceremony of my installation.

"His Majesty's words to me, as his brother, when I entered this hall have touched me deeply. The King's participation in today's ceremony will not only be remembered by all present, but will be recorded with pride in the annals of the Craft. On behalf of all our Brethren, I tender our humble thanks to His Majesty and assure him of our unswerving loyalty to his Person and his Throne."

Concluding, and speaking of the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, the Grand Master said:

"While the opinions of Brethren may differ in politics and religion, Freemasonry provides the means whereby Brethren of all parties and sects are bound together by those virtues which are common to all who desire to serve their fellow men.

"Our object must be to maintain the traditions of the Craft. They are in our keeping to hand on to our successors at least as pure and unsullied as we have received them, and I, therefore, commend to you the words of the Sacred Volume upon which each of you has taken his obligation—'Love the Brotherhood, fear God and honor the King'."

In addition to representatives from all parts of the British Empire, including M. W. Rev. Dr. George W. Kerby, D.D., P.G.M., representing Alberta, delegations were present from Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico, Cuba, Argentina, Finland, Yugoslavia, France, Phillipine Islands, Norway, Greece, Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, The Netherlands and from twenty-one of the United States of America.



OLD SCOTTISH LODGE HAS NEW TEMPLE IN SAME HOTEL

The Temple of Old Kilwinning St. John's Lodge No. 6, Inverness, Scotland, situated in the Caledonian Hotel of that city for 260 years, has been established in another part of the building. The change of location was caused by structural alterations to the hotel. The new Temple is decorated and finished along modern lines. The old fireplace which bears an inscription and the date, "1678," has been transferred from the old to the new quarters. The two stained Masonic symbols recovered after the Lodge had been destroyed by the "Wolf of Badenoch" are also a part of the new Temple.

Impressive Masonic ceremonies attended the formal occupation of the new Temple with Alexander F. Mackenzie, Provincial Grand Master of Inverness-shire, officiating. All the Lodges of the Province were represented with many brethren from Lodges of other Provinces being present.

GRAND MASTER'S LETTER

My Dear Brethren:

As this is the first issue of the *Bulletin* since Grand Lodge met I have been asked by the Editor, M. W. Bro. Mitchell, to write a brief note.

My first word is a message of greeting to all the brethren of our Lodges and especially to those Masters and Officers who have been installed and invested into office during the past few months and whose responsibility it is to rule and govern their Lodges for the ensuing term. I would suggest that you draw up a program for the year's activities. This should be well balanced, covering all phases of lodge life, especially Degree Work, and Research and Education, including short talks and social events and making use of as many of your members as possible. In this regard the Grand Lodge Committee on Research and Education propose to assist the Lodges in the near future.

It has been suggested that the Grand Master should from time to time comment in the *Bulletin* on Masonic affairs as he finds them in his visits throughout the jurisdiction. One of my first duties was to attend the meeting of District No. 13 at Wembley on August 1 st, at which the Grand Secretary and myself met the brethren and discussed their problems with them. Meetings were held at Grande Prairie and Peace River Lodges and we also met the officers of most of the other Lodges and had the opportunity of further discussion of their Lodge affairs. To those brethren who drove us around and helped to make our stay enjoyable our grateful thanks are due.

Some years ago the Grand Secretary assisted at the institution of Peace Lodge No. 126, G.R.B.C., at Dawson Creek in the Peace River "Block", on behalf of the neighboring Grand Jurisdiction and the finest of fraternal relations have existed since that time between the adjacent Alberta Lodges and this somewhat isolated Lodge of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia. It was with much pleasure that we were able to attend a special meeting of Peace Lodge called in our honor while we were in the vicinity, a courtesy deeply appreciated by your Grand Officers.

Just a word about visits from Grand Officers. They travel long distances solely in the interests of Masonry, a purpose which is often defeated when they are called upon to address mixed gatherings that have been arranged, instead of the purely Masonic meeting they expect, and which in a very large measure nullifies the main object of their visit. Please do not mix social events with Masonic meetings. Keep them separate. Non-Masons have no right to be present when Masonic matters are to be discussed. This applies especially at the supper or banquet table when speakers are called upon to make addresses. In fact, your Grand Officers would prefer a simple repast, followed by an hour's fraternal intercourse with brethren of the Craft.

I hope that you and your families have had a happy Summer season and now that it is drawing to a close that you will plan to attend Lodge regularly this

coming Fall and Winter. I am sure you will derive much pleasure from your Lodge associations. Try it.
Fraternally and sincerely,

GEORGE MOORE,
Grand Master.

• • •

THE MASONIC RECORD OF KING GEORGE VI

Joining the Fraternity at an emergency meeting of Navy Lodge No. 2612, London, Eng., December 2nd, 1919, the King said, in the presence of the late Lord Amptill; his elder brother, the Prince of Wales (now the Duke of Windsor); the Earl of Donoughmore, Grand Master of Ireland; Brig.-Gen. G. Gilmour, Grand Master Mason for Scotland, and many other distinguished guests, that he had always wished to become a Freemason. "All my life," he said, "I have heard of Freemasonry, and I have learned that Freemasons in this country have been a great help to the poor and friendless and have been notable in their efforts on behalf of children. . . . and I like to think that in the future I shall be associated in their great work."

Serving as Master of his Lodge in 1921-22, he succeeded the Prince of Wales as Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England, in 1923. The year following he was installed Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge for Middlesex by his Grand Uncle, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, who said, in addressing his nephew:

"From the day you became a Mason you have shown the greatest interest in all things appertaining to the Craft, and I am convinced that, in this new position, one of the deepest trust, you will carry out all the responsible duties to the utmost of your ability."

March 30th, 1931, Prince Albert became Grand Master for Middlesex in the Mark Master Degree. In the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite he has attained the 33rd Degree.

An indefatigable worker in the various Bodies of which he was a member, the man who is now Ruler of the British Empire gave much of his busy hours to the charitable spheres of Freemasonry. At his side in all his benevolent activities in the Craft was the Queen, who, outstanding in her work, assisted at two great annual festivals, one held for the Boys' Institution in 1931, and the other, the Mark Benevolent Fund Festival, held in 1934. At both of these events the King presided. When he ascended the throne he followed the customary British procedure and resigned from his Masonic offices.

—*The S. R. News Bureau.*

• • •

A BOOK FOUND IN LONDON PLACES MASONRY BEYOND 1526

LITERALLY thousands upon thousands of articles, pamphlets and books have been written on Freemasonry since the first Grand Lodge was founded in England in 1717. This could not be otherwise with a Fraternity whose teachings are so rich and

fundamental in the ideals that should govern the behavior of man as an individual and as a social being. Elements of its philosophy, taught in allegory and by symbols, reach back of recorded time to the tribal period of the human race. The conception of veiling and preserving the philosophy in the terms of the builder in stone is believed to have been discovered and put into practice within modern times and within the past several centuries. It is the uncertainty of the exact time that makes the search for the first uses of certain of its terms intriguing to the Masonic scholar. The word "Freemason" is one of these terms. When was it first used? This query correctly answered will tell when the history of the Craft took definite form. Every now and then some student finds a tome where the word "Freemason" is used. If the use of the word antedates the previous find, he has something that arrests immediate interest among Masonic students.

Until recently the earliest known use of the word "Freemason" appeared in a book entitled "A Most Spiritual and Precious Pearl" which came out in 1550. Now comes another, published twenty-four years earlier, the author of which is William Boude, a "bachellor of divinity." This tome was discovered in the British Museum and will stand as containing the "first known use of the word 'Freemason'" until another is found. Many believe that other sources will be discovered; if not in books, certainly in ancient manuscripts.

The following passage from the book by Boude, described by W. J. Williams in the proceedings of the London Lodge of research, *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, will convey much meaning to most members of the Craft:

" * * * Then after we have been in the furnace of temptations and tribulations, keeping our souls unbroken, we shall be as pure as the gold. Then if we be touched with a sharp word we shall yield a benign and gentle answer, and give a sweet silver sound as the tried silver. Then we shall be delivered out of our apprenticeship and be made free men. For, as for the four days past, we were but as apprentices, and now in this day we be made free men. Before in the four days past, we were but as * * * , bound to learn the craft of the exercise of virtues: and now this day we shall be masters of the craft. Example. The free mason setteth his apprentice first long time to learn to hew stones, and when he can do that perfectly, he admitteth him to be a free mason and chooseth him as a cunning man to be a master of the craft, and maketh him a setter or orderer of the same stone, which setting of stones, though it be far greater cunning than is the hewing of stones, yet it is less labor and more quietness. So, in these four days past, we must as apprentices labor continually, and learn to hew, polish, and square the precious stones of virtues, which be to be put in the temple of God, builded in our souls, of the which temple Saint Paul speaketh in this wise."

Judging from the above quotation, there are many Masons who would like to read the whole book if printed in modern English, and who take pride in knowing that Speculative Masonry so far antedates the founding of the Grand Lodge in 1717.

MASONRY IN EGYPT UNITED

A communication, dated April 16th, 1939, has been received from Grand Secretary M. Rifaat, 33°, of the National Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Egypt, which states that toward the end of last year a union or agreement was effected between the Grand Lodge of Egypt, headed by Grand Master Hussein Sabry Pasha, uncle of His Majesty King Farouk I, and former Governor of Alexandria, and the Grand Orient of Egypt, headed by Dr. Ahmed Maher, Minister of Finance, as Grand Master. The new organization is to be known as the National Grand Lodge of Egypt.

COURAGE

Nobody is more pathetic, or more useless than the man who can never make up his mind about anything, and consequently is never ready to act promptly and vigorously when the time for action arrives. The fear of being mistaken has led many people to empty their minds of all positive opinions and to hold their ideas in a timid and hesitating spirit. There is a kind of tolerance that has no backbone and a broad-mindedness that is without depth. Convictions imply self-confidence and courage but should they be based upon prejudice rather than knowledge they of course will do more harm than good.

What Masons should particularly seek for are convictions strong enough to direct what we do, but flexible enough to change with growing knowledge.

—Alabama Masonic Monthly.

WHAT THE WORLD IS LOOKING FOR

The World today is looking for men who are not for sale; men who are honest, sound from center to circumference, true to the heart's core; men with consciences as steady as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right if the heavens totter and the earth reels; men who tell the truth and look the world right in the eye; men who neither brag nor run; men who neither flag nor flinch; men who can have courage without shouting it; men in whom the courage of everlasting life runs still deep and strong; men who know their message and tell it; men who know their place and fill it; men who know their business and attend to it; men who will not lie, shirk or dodge; men who are not too lazy to work, nor too proud to be poor; men who are willing to eat what they have earned and wear what they have paid for; men who are not ashamed to say, "No" with emphasis and who are not ashamed to say "I can't afford it."—*Author Unknown.*

"BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTIONS"

The subscription price for the *Bulletin* is two cents (2c) per copy, mailed to Lodge Secretaries for distribution.

Suitable binders can be supplied at seventy cents (70c).

Communicate with Grand Lodge Office, Calgary.