



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

SPECIAL MASONIC WAR DISTRESS FUND NUMBER

RETROSPECT and PROSPECT

THE Thirty-sixth Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was, we think, the quietest on record. There was not even one good debate and whether this is altogether a favorable omen remains a question in the minds of some of us who think the floor of Grand Lodge the place to "thresh things out".

But if there were no debates of consequence, there were other things of high value, the most outstanding being the successful completion of the collecting of twenty-five thousand dollars by the Brethren for the relief of our confreres overseas. Off to a rather unfortunate start, the Fund gained in momentum near the end of the Masonic year with success crowning the effort and, we hope, leaving the Brethren ready and willing to double their efforts for another year.

To us as a silent critic, there were two outstanding contributions other than the successful completion of the Fund, the Report on Fraternal Dead and the Address by R. W. Bro. Crane-Williams at the Annual Banquet. Reports of Committees are all too often taken as a matter of course, and that on Fraternal Dead looked upon as a gracious gesture to the departed. Too often the report is the occasion of a sermon of small interest or consolation. This time it was, in our opinion, a sincere and dignified recognition of the labors of those who have joined the great majority, a layman's commentary on our inevitable destiny, in short, and bluntly, a good job well done.

Seldom has Grand Lodge been favored with an Address which can compare with that of R. W. Bro. Crane-Williams. Here was a man with a message indeed and, with a message dressed as it was in all

the majesty of the English language, it is small wonder he held his large audience spell-bound.

But "the King is dead, long live the King", a new Grand Master reigns. And the new Grand Master has set us a task of no mean proportions, but one which we are convinced the Masons of Alberta can accomplish.

Fifty thousand dollars is a respectable sum of money. Broken down to the per capita level it is relatively insignificant. No high pressure salesmanship should be necessary to induce any Freemason to find a five dollar donation in a whole year, and we hope none will be needed. It cannot be gainsaid that on us as citizens the demands are many, but on us as Freemasons, they are few and simple. We believe that Freemasonry is universal. We all made a certain promise at the north-east corner, none of us will argue as to the need, therefore, simply, it is our privilege to see that the objective set is met and passed if at all possible.

From specially appointed general committees, from district committees and from individuals will come news and views of the progress of the Fund, but with the individual Mason lies the final test of success or failure and each must consider the need as it affects his Masonry, his conscience and his pocket.

We feel that any impassioned harangue in these columns is unnecessary and in poor taste. We believe that every Alberta Freemason will appreciate the need and give generously according to his station. We hope that every one of us will heed the call now and act to the best of his ability, not standing by until he is moved from his lethargy by the success of another Lodge or District.

Probably none has been more critical of the practical use of Freemasonry than has the writer. He realizes that a very definite and a very fine objective has been set before each one of us and believes that his Brethren will respond to the call quickly and generously.

The Masonic "season" opens in September; this *Bulletin* will be in the hands of every Secretary in time for the September regular meeting of his Lodge. It will take him about twenty minutes to read the entire *Bulletin* in open Lodge. Each Secretary is earnestly requested to arrange with his Worshipful Master that the reading of the *Bulletin*, or at least parts of it dealing with the War Distress Fund of 1941-42, be a definite item in the Lodge Agenda for the first possible regular meeting.

—A.M.M.



HISTORICAL REGISTERS

RECENTLY, by courtesy of our good friend Bro. Herb Collier, we had a glimpse of the Historical Register of Connaught Lodge at Viking. Beginning with a printed history of the country around Viking, prepared by Bro. Collier, there is a collection of historical documents, news clippings, programs and the like, and many photographs of incidents and people. The volume has been kept up faithfully for nearly thirty years, has become a museum piece and the envy of any local historian of this young country. We have seen many historical registers, including that of our own Lodge which we thought exceptionally good, but Connaught's is by all odds the finest yet.

It is only when one inspects a painstaking and accurate record such as the present that one can appreciate its value to the historian of the future. The brother with a flair for the appropriate, a sharp sense of historical values, the patience for continuity and an awareness that he is recording living history, is the proper candidate for the office of Registrar and can be the creator of a work of priceless value long after the hand that made it has withered to dust. We are apt to think that because incidents and people are marked in the press that this is the only record required and forget that the intimately close record of the men on the ground is incomparably more valuable from the point of view of the historian.

The Historical Register of a Masonic Lodge, in the hands of a competent Registrar with a proper sense of values, can readily become the most valued treasure the Lodge possesses. Masters of Lodges might well exert themselves to see that the example of Connaught Lodge is accepted as something of a mark to shoot at. They will be fortunate if they find as good a Registrar as Bro. Collier, although he will be the first to say the woods are full of willing Brethren but waiting to be asked.

—A.M.M.

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

THIS being the first opportunity that has presented itself to address a message to our entire membership, this is an opportune time to express my appreciation for your confidence in conferring upon me the highest office in our Grand Jurisdiction and since your confidence has been so liberally given may I now request in a greater measure than ever before your unswerving loyalty to our Grand Jurisdiction and its Officers.

In these dark and difficult days now being experienced by humanity the world over I fully realize the heavier responsibilities which I, as your Grand Master, must assume, consequently, I approach my task with a deep sense of humility but firmly determined that nothing must deter us from making our Masonic Lamp shine brighter in a world polluted with bloodshed, suffering and hatred. Our District Meetings are just commencing, those already held have to me been very encouraging. May I impress upon you the increasing necessity of attending your meeting and assisting your D.D.G.M. in inspiring all members in your District to greater activity and nobler service.

It was indeed a high honor and a real privilege to receive a Royal Command to meet in Calgary the M. W. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, H.R.H. the Duke of Kent. The meeting took place at Currie Barracks when I was accompanied by our Grand Secretary, M. W. Bro. Kemmis. H.R.H. was most gracious and regretted he only had a few moments for conversation. However, he was particularly anxious that I convey to the Alberta Brethren his sincere appreciation of our monetary assistance last year through the Grand Master's Fund.

He furthermore was deeply touched when I advised him we had doubled our objective for this year and stated assistance was urgently needed. Under the foregoing circumstances, my Brethren, I desire this to be a real incentive to do all in our power without any reservations to achieve our objective \$50,000.

We must put sacrifice into our activities. Masonry must more than ever champion the Cause of Freedom, Liberty and Justice and the best method of doing this at present is to extend Relief, Consolation and Succor to our suffering and broken-hearted Brethren in war torn Britain.

Duty calls you and I as never before. It is not necessary to make serious inroads into the lodge's treasury, let each member do his bit.

We still dwell in security and peace; wars, devastation and suffering has not yet touched our peaceful land, for where there is war, suffering, distress and want follow in its wake.

Let our effort be a thank offering to the G.A.O.T.U. for what we have been spared. **BE GENEROUS, BE PROMPT.**

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

GEO. F. ELLIS,

Grand Master.

An Appeal from Lord Southwood

Chairman of The Hospital for Sick Children, Gt. Ormond Street, London

July, 1941.

Dear Sir:

This letter comes to you from the heart of London. Whatever your own difficulties at the moment—and I know they must be many—I want you please to spare just a few minutes to read about a tragedy that has befallen the greatest hospital for Sick Children in the world.

You may have read in the papers that a Children's Hospital in Central London has been bombed. That Hospital was the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street.

For years men and women had toiled devotedly and unceasingly to rebuild this famous Children's Hospital. The greater part of a beautiful modern building had been completed at a cost of over £350,000. Then, in the night, came the bombs.

Doctors and Nurses and the Hospital staff fought a fire the flames of which roared into the air. They battled through the roaring floods shoulder deep from the burst water mains. Every baby in the Hospital was saved. By a miracle not a single little life was lost.

The wreckage remains—and amid that wreckage the hospital that has never closed its doors since the day it was first opened in 1852, carries on.

I am sending you with this letter a little of the rubble that was once part of the magnificent building that Hitler has bombed. I am sending, too, a few photographs that will give you some idea of this act of wanton destruction against innocent little children.

On behalf of the Children who have been so outrageously wronged—on behalf, too, of those wonderful men and women of the Hospital staff who, through flame and flood and fury carried their little charges to safety—I appeal to you to help.

In your position I know only too well that you have many appeals that may seem to make a more immediate claim upon you. Far be it from me to ask for your help at the expense of any local charity—but I do ask you to look upon this very urgent appeal as something quite apart. For children—sick and suffering children—are in a special sense the responsibility of every one of us. They are, too, the coming generation—the men and women of the future to whom, when victory comes, we must look to build a better and safer world.

When I tell you that our Hospital is £175,000 on the wrong side and that war or no war this debt must be paid off, you will appreciate the tremendously difficult task with which I am faced.

The work of the Hospital for Sick Children is world-wide—our tiny patients come to it from every corner of the Empire and the doctors and nurses who are trained here go forth on their missions of healing all over our own country and to countries beyond the seas.

Many of the little ones who come to us are the children of those grand men who are fighting to defend our Empire and our liberty. To help now is to earn their undying gratitude. Your assistance now will give us the assurance that one day—and may that day come soon—the Angel of Mercy shall once again beckon little children where the destroying angel has just been

Please do this for us—your kindness in this dark hour will never be forgotten.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) SOUTHWOOD.

OVERSEAS HELP AND WHAT IT DOES

Extracts from Letter Received from
V. W. Bro. R. J. DAWES, Guildford, England

June 8th, 1941.

"Here is a typical case: A brother of a Burmah Lodge, a mining engineer, recently living in Rio, had his wife and two sons, 19 and 17, living in England at the outbreak of the war. He arranged for them to go to Rio. The oldest boy being 19 and English was not allowed to leave the country, being of serviceable age. Mother, who had sent all her liquid funds to Rio, decided to stay with the boys. Father decided to come home and wrote to that effect, but it is presumed that the ship was torpedoed for they have heard nothing further of him, nor can Mrs. MacGregor recover her money, as she cannot prove her husband's death. She subsequently got work in a government factory, but was knocked down while going to lunch and taken to hospital. She is now in a home of recovery. The older boy took up wireless telegraphy, meaning to go to sea. On qualification he was appointed to a ship which was torpedoed. The same happened to a second ship, a third was mined and he is awaiting a fourth. The younger boy got a job at 23 shillings per week and on this they were living, with mother still in hospital. There the daughter of a prominent Mason in the district got in touch with the mother, while on Red Cross work, and from the mother she learned of her husband's connection with the Craft. I was appealed to and got in touch with the Grand Secretary. The records were searched and Bro. MacGregor's membership established, as was the membership of Mrs. MacGregor's father, and help—Fifty pounds—was sent from the *Overseas Masonic Distress Fund*. This I was allowed to hand over to the lady who interested herself in Mrs. MacGregor and the local brethren are also watching the case."

"Please tell your M. W. Grand Master of this. I could write reams on the beneficent work that is being done by our brethren overseas and I am but one of hundreds who deal with these cases. I visited four cases on Thursday last. It is heart rending in one way, but uplifting in many ways. It is a glorious work you are helping. . . . Though the clouds are not yet breaking, we still hold our heads very high, so carry on the good work, please."

Editor's Note.—V. W. Bro. Dawes has performed many services for the Grand Lodge of Alberta and has been honored by our Grand Lodge by election to Past Grand rank.

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THANK YOU

High Prairie, Alberta.

Brethren:

I feel I should not let this opportunity pass without expressing my thanks to all of you who attended Grand Lodge and assisted in making it the splendid and harmonious session that it was. To the various artists and others in charge of the musical programme and the banquet, I wish to especially extend my thanks.

Announcement was made at Grand Lodge that sufficient money would be taken from Grand Lodge funds in order that our objective would be attained for the Fund instituted by myself as Grand Master last year. I am happy to report that we have attained our objective without it being necessary for Grand Lodge to advance any amount. \$25,337.44 has been very generously contributed. It was a pleasure to receive recently \$1,000.00 from the Grand Chapter of Alberta, Royal Arch Masons and \$200.00 from the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, Knights Templar. These amounts, together with the \$2,250.00 contributed previously by the A. & A.S.R. Bodies in Calgary and Edmonton are very gratefully acknowledged and they prove the unity of purpose that exists amongst the various branches of Freemasonry in this Jurisdiction.

The total amount has been forwarded to the United Grand Lodge of England to be used by them for the purposes of relief wherever the need and stress appears to be the greatest. My only regret is that the amount was not larger, but it is a beginning, Brethren, and we can determine to contribute a larger amount during the present year. To all who so generously contributed, I wish to express my sincere thanks. Let us who have so much—and we have a lot in Alberta—do all we can to assist those who at the present time have so little. Letters have been received from the Homeland saying how much our timely and brotherly assistance is appreciated. Do not let us fail them. They really are in need of our help.

Whilst it is necessary that we practise our Charity in a practical and tangible manner, we should not fail to practise Charity in our hearts one towards another. As we gather around our Masonic Altars once or twice every month, let us not forget that life at best is not very long. A few more smiles, a few more tears, some pleasure, much pain, and life's play will close. Let us renew our solemn obligations each time we meet that we will practise Charity—that great watchword of our Order. In every relation of life towards each other, towards our relatives, towards our friends and neighbours, and towards strangers of every language, creed and colour, always practice Charity.

Not only the charity of alms giving, enjoined on us by our obligations, but that more precious Charity which thinketh no evil and speaketh no evil. Do this, and not only will the world see how dearly Masons love each other and their fellow men, but we will indeed be living that true Masonic life which is but darkly foreshadowed by the emblems, secrets, working tools, lectures and temples of our Order which though beautiful, are as nothing when compared with the bright warm reality of Masonry fulfilled.

I wish every one of you the best of everything during the present year and to our Most Worshipful Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers, the success and support they deserve.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.