



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 45 NO. 10

Editor, M.W. Bro. W. J. COLLETT

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## MASONRY'S CHALLENGE

M.W. Bro. Dr. P. J. Kendal P.G.M. is this year the M. Ill. Grand Sovereign of the Grand Imperial Conclave of The Masonic and Military Order of the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, K.H.S. and St. John the Evangelist. His address delivered at his official visit to the Alberta Chapter was of such interest to Craft Masonry that there have been many requests to reproduce it in the Bulletin.

Brethren, it has been said and it is quite true that we are living in a fast moving age. An age of violence, air piracy, racial unrest, hatred, greed, selfishness and immorality. An age in which everyone is trying to get ahead faster than the other fellow. Ideals are forgotten in our mad rush for supremacy and many of our time honoured Institutions are undergoing a searching analysis, even our Freemasonry is being subjected to the test.

It is not enough for us to know what we stand for, we must be prepared and willing if the need arises, to stand up and be counted, counted for that for which we say we stand. As Masons, we must be men of courage, men of conviction, yes indeed men of high ideals.

Let us remember Brethren that the great aim and task in this divided world of ours is the promotion of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. We have to learn to live, to love and get along with our Fellowman, if we hope to make this troubled world of ours a better place in which to live. We are sometimes asked the question, what is the purpose and destiny of Freemasonry? Let us not forget that the message of Freemasonry has ever been, still is and must always be; to promote the Brotherhood of Man, through a union of those who properly exemplify its high ideals in all of their human relationships. Next to our individual Churches, it is still one of the greatest forces for good that we have in this divided world of ours.

Our Masonic philosophy, is to take good men, one at a time and make them better. Not better than everyone else but better than themselves. The building of Character is one of the greatest designs that we have on our Masonic Trestleboard. This of course is a personal and individual thing, something that we have to work at ourselves, we have to continually chip away the rough corners and smooth the way, so as our individual integrity may be preserved and maintained. Personalizing Masonry is one phase of Masonry that should be strongly emphasized. All of the beauty of our Masonic Philosophy is a light under a bushel, unless it is put to work in our everyday life and practice.

It is my sincerest conviction that the greatest single attraction in Masonry is the Fellowship between its Members, and certainly no real Fellowship can exist in an Order founded upon abstract philosophy. Real Masonic Brotherhood is knowing your brother, his name, where he works, how many children he has, and their names. His likes and dislikes, being in a position to congratulate him on important happenings in his life at home and in the community. Masonic Brotherhood must not be confined to the lodge room, but must be permitted to extend into the Community in its everyday life, and this Philosophy of Brotherhood, when applied in everyday life, can be, nay it must be the solution of universal peace and happiness. I feel that it is not too fanciful to say that if Civilization is to continue, then all men regardless of race, color or creed, shall become in fact their Brothers Keeper.

Many years ago, there appeared an article in the Christian Science Monitor, in big headlines the story, "Masonry builds good works through good deeds, good habits and good will". This was a deserved recognition but is it enough for us in this day and age to bask in the glory and achievements of our Illustrious Brethren of the Past, or should we instead recognize that we must be alert to the needs of a changing Society and the opportunity for service in that changing Society. Service is not something you perform to get credit for or to become a Hero. Service is something we give because we believe in the dignity, the sanctity and the value of human life. If there ever was a time when the spirit of Service is needed, it is now. Service has been said to be the keynote of Fraternalism. It was Lord Halifax who said, "Service is the rent we pay for our room on earth".

We are all aware of the great Space Age in which we have been living. What with the successful launching of the Apollo Missions and the placing of a Man and a Mason on the Moon. We get all excited about outer Space, I hope and pray that we on this continent will get all excited about the penetration of inner Space, that is, what is going on in the hearts and minds of Men. The great challenge here is not Altitude, but rather Attitude. Important as it is to orbit the planets, it is vastly more important that we forge together the hoops which bind Nations and Races in Common Purpose. Let us remember that the Space Ship of tomorrow, will not convey Man to his final destination point, but only to another point in the plan which the Great Architect of the Universe has for the development of Mankind. Within the walls of our Lodge rooms, we must constantly keep before us the fact, that the life line of Man extends beyond the Stars and into the boundless realms of Eternity. This fact and not the mundane consideration of outer Space must assume prime importance, as we seek to fit ourselves for the all important concerns of Eternity.

This is the challenge which is facing all of us, and it is up to you and me as individuals, who hold the Key. We can lock the door on human liberties and fall behind an iron curtain of hate and sectionalism, or we can open the doors to all the beautiful lessons our beloved Order teaches us. There are many reasons why we should love our Freemasonry, but the principal one is because it stands for every splendid attribute that tends towards the building of good broadminded, square acting Men. Such Men that are desperately needed in a world that seems to be hurtling towards self destruction. In a day when Moral Bankruptcy threatens our Social Institutions. In an hour when radical religious leaders proclaim that, "God is dead". Those of us who are vitally interested in the future welfare of Mankind need a foundation Stone that is absolute. Throughout all time and throughout the Universe there is but one absolute, none other is or ever will be needed. In the beginning "God", there is the absolute on which all of life is eternally founded. "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be World without end", says the Doxology. Do you need further proof of His Omniscience, Omnipotence and Omnipresence? Then look beneath you at the earth below with its "Divine Miracles", look above you at the Sun, Moon and Stars obeying the Divine Plan. Look around you and into the hearts of your Fellowman and your Brother Masons and find all the proof that you need.

Remember this my Brethren, it is not that you be better than someone else, but that you be better than yourself. Your life is only a reflection of what is in your Heart. Masonry must first live in your heart if it is to live at all. It has been said that there is very little difference between one man and another, but what little difference there is, is very important. Wear your Masonry in your heart and it will emanate from you in a way that will make Men see, that little difference of light.

And now my Brethren, as we go forward let us all rededicate and consecrate ourselves to the great Moral Principles and High Ideals for which our beloved Order stands. More importantly let us rededicate ourselves to the Service of God, the Great Jehovah, the first and greatest Landmark of our Order and the corner stone of any Spiritual structure we can ever hope to erect. God, represented symbolically in our Lodge rooms by that Great Symbol, the letter "G", which does not stand for good or great or grand, but for "God". Whose Divine presence radiates in our Lodge rooms, emanating from that great open Book on our sacred Altars. Secondly let us rededicate ourselves to the Altar of Obligation, the center of every Masonic Lodge and of every truly Masonic Life. That Altar, where at we all covenanted with God and Man. Thirdly my Brethren, let us rededicate ourselves to the Holy Bible upon that Altar, the great Light of Freemasonry, the rule and guide of Faith and Conduct, for all who seek to enter that Spiritual Temple not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. And finally let us rededicate ourselves to the noblest concept of Brotherhood, summed up in the matchless words of the Great Teacher, often referred to as the Golden Rule; "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". With these great Precepts firmly embedded in our hearts and minds, we too, like our Brethren of old who sought the Light, may face the future with confidence.

Our Order shows the way, a way that will ensure a joyous life and a happy outcome. This is the confident faith expressed in our Fellowship. Our Father is the center and soul of our belief and in the conduct of our daily life. There is no substitute to that of putting our hand in His, and going forward into the future with confidence. That was the guideline for the past and is the sure and certain way for the future. God grant us the courage to take it.

## COMMERCIALISM IN FREEMASONRY

From the Grand Lodge Bulletin, June 1936

Commercialism in Freemasonry is a practice that cannot be too severely condemned. Deep rooted in many hearts is the belief that the member of our Fraternity who uses its name or insignia in any form whatsoever to further his material gain, has entirely misconstrued the objects and aims of the Fraternity and is not entitled to respect, encouragement or patronage.

I cannot too emphatically disapprove the use of business cards with the name or names of Masonic organizations or symbolic designs. The placing of Masonic emblems on automobiles is in exceedingly bad taste and has a tendency to cheapen the Fraternity, particularly in the minds of the profane, and generally speaking, I seriously doubt its effectiveness in trade.

The membership of our brotherhood is human in every respect and it is too much to hope that every member of the Craft could properly differentiate between its social features through associations and companionship and the suggested opportunities offered for increased business relations. However, we must keep in mind the high ideals of Freemasonry and demonstrate by precept and practice that self interest is the least of its objectives.

"As an antidote to blues, treat yourself to something you can't afford. Fling down the gauntlet to the circumstance of debt! Challenge the future by making the first attack!"

## "COULDN'T SEE A THING"

From the Grand Lodge Bulletin, June 1936

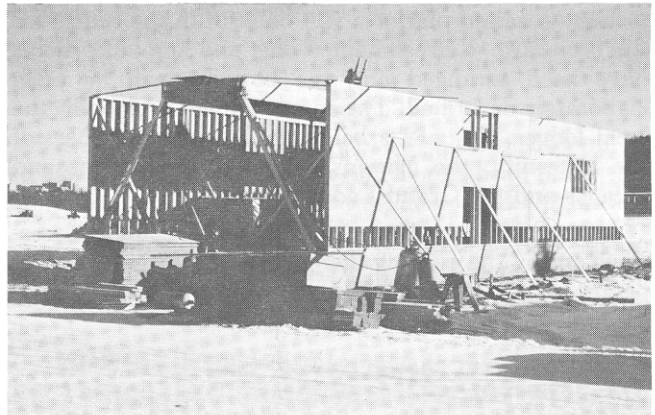
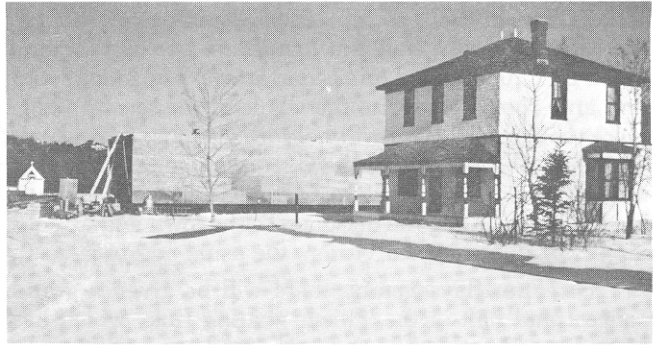
I am going to relate one very interesting incident that occurred in the lodge at South Pass City many years ago. A man whose name was Amos was being passed to the degree of Fellowcraft, Charley Fogg was acting as Master. During the preambulation about the lodge room, the Master was reciting the 2nd verse, 8th Chapter of Amos: "And the Lord said unto me: Amos, what seest thou." At this juncture the candidate stopped the march, facing the east, said, "I don't see a durn thing, Charley!"

That is the trouble with many of our Brethren today, "They don't see a durn thing" in Masonry and they do not practise its teachings.

## FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

From the Grand Lodge Bulletin, June 1936

Recently a newly admitted brother asked one of the principal officers of his lodge, one proficient in the ritual, the meaning of "Free and Accepted Masons" and was unable to get a satisfactory answer. No doubt the reader knows, but for the benefit of the few who may not be informed, a brief statement will suffice. During the fourteenth century, Masonry, as we know it, began to emerge from hazy tradition, with records and fairly definite dates. In the early organized craft the members were known as Masons and were all operative. When a group was employed in the building of some great church they were bound by the ties of mutual interest. Their "loge" was situated close to their work, being usually where they ate their meals. They had a rule of secrecy and mutual support and each admitted member was required to "swere upon ye boke yt he sal trewly ande bysyli at his power hold and kepe holy all ye poyntes of yts forsayde ordinance". The Free Masons were free men, and Masons of Guilds or Companies. Their right to exercise their craft and to sell their products depended on the freedom of their cities. The privilege of working as a Mason was not accorded before the workman had been made free. The "Free Masons" would not work with others, even though skilled, if not free but called them "Cowans". This may explain a much used and little understood work. If they violated this rule and worked with an uninitiate the "loge" fined them heavily. In brief the view most generally held by authorities is that a Free Mason was one free from a guild and claimed exemption from any such control, or that they were emancipated skilled artisans who might travel and serve wherever and whenever they pleased, "To travel and work as such". Later members of lodges exercised the right of making "Free" Masons and denied such freedom to "Cowans". "Masownys of a loge" were the only ones recognized as Free Masons. To make this short, later on others than operatives were admitted. The Masons Company of London, a prominent and influential organization, was early and active in this. On application and on certification of good moral character, others were "Accepted". When they entered, the meetings were called "Acception", and the new members were called "Accepted Masons". So there you have it. From then on lodges were composed of "Free" and "Accepted" Masons. Now we use it to describe all members and almost as one phrase or word.



### EDMONTON RECONSTRUCTS LODGE HALL

The Masons in Edmonton are reconstructing a replica of the lodge hall build in 1903.

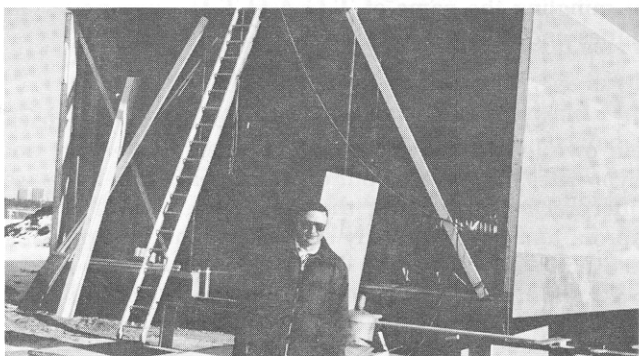
The pictures show the site of the Lodge Hall in Fort Edmonton Historic Park. The first picture shows the hall under construction with St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church in the background. The house in the foreground is the actual home of Alberta's first Premier, Hon. W. A. Rutherford who was also the first Chancellor of the University of Alberta. It was moved into the park. The second picture shows the lodge hall under construction. It will be opened in the Seventy-fifth Anniversary year. The third picture is of Bro. K. Kobylka in front of the project. With this we print an excerpt from the Edmonton Journal of June 8, 1904 which gives an account of the meeting of the Communication Grand Lodge of Manitoba held in Edmonton before the Grand Lodge of Alberta came into existence.

### MASONIC GRAND LODGE

The Delegates Will Gather Tonight —  
Dedication of New Masonic Hall

The Grand Lodge of Manitoba, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, will convene in annual session here tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. The delegates will arrive this evening and be received by the Reception Committee of the local lodges, which is composed of Dr. Braithwaite, Grand Master and Past Master of Edmonton Lodge; W. G. Ibbotson, Worshipful Master of Edmonton Lodge and Dr. H. L. McInnis, Worshipful Master of Jasper Lodge. The headquarters of the delegates will be the Alberta Hotel.

This evening it has been arranged that the ceremony of dedicating the new Masonic Hall, erected last fall, will take place. The presence of the chief members





of the Order in the West will lend great impressiveness to the ceremony. The hall is a handsome two story frame block 28 x 70, situated on Second street. The lodge room and ante-rooms comprise the whole of the second floor. Here the Grand Lodge will hold its sessions, as is usual, it is likely the opening of the Grand Lodge on Thursday morning will be a public function, the Mayor and Council formally welcoming the delegates to the town and extending to the distinguished visitors the usual courtesies.

On Thursday evening there will be given a grand concert and ball in the Thistle skating rink, which has been floored, staged and made into a splendid auditorium. A raised platform will be built in the centre for the orchestra. Refreshment rooms and smoking rooms have been arranged and the building will be most elaborately decorated. The entertainment is given by the local lodges, the guests being the resident members of the fraternity, the Masons of neighboring towns and villages and the Grand Lodge delegates.

On Friday the Grand Lodge will conclude its sessions and in the evening there will be exemplification of degree work by the local Masonic lodges.

## ARE THE MASONIC PENALTIES IN ACCORD WITH MASONIC PRINCIPLES?

This paper was presented to Masonic Lodge No. 176 as a part of their program on Masonic Education and sent in by Bro. T. A. Morris, its Secretary.

In today's world life is cheap, as it always has been. But more and more voices are raised in support of human freedom and dignity, one of them Amnesty International. Despite the wholesale slaughter going on all over the world there are those voices in the wilderness who demand an end to all this, because killing, torturing and the stripping of personal human dignity is wrong under any circumstance.

It is not a logical conclusion that the threat of killing, even symbolically, is also wrong and demeaning to those who apply it?

One of the proud claims of Masonry is, that we stand for the protection, teaching and defence of the principles of humanity and morality. Period! My opinion and maybe that of many, less outspoken Brethren, is that we are violating those very principles in our practice of the Craft, by the Penalties. That they have never been applied, which would have been outside the powers of the Old Craft Lodges anyway, cannot serve as an excuse for their existence today.

In Grand Lodge Bulletin Vol. 43, No. 9 of May 1978, Bro. W. J. Matheson of Crescent Lodge No. 87 reports about three candidates who were greatly disturbed when confronted with the penalties during their initiation. I quote: "Two of the three candidates mentioned above did not continue beyond the first degree - both were well educated and lived by Masonic standards. They both still retain a high regard for Masonry per-se and for Masons individually but they could not accept the wording and connotations to them of the penalties." End of quote.

The candidate in the first degree on his initiation, even after being instructed and assured by the Worshipful Master that everything he confirms and promises in his following obligation is within the law, secular or

otherwise, finds himself shocked when it comes to the penalty. We have it on good authority: M.W. Bro. H. R. H. the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Lodges of England. He said: "At my initiation, and indeed in the other ceremonies, but most particularly at my initiation, I remember feeling a definite sensation of repugnance when I came to repeat the penalty clause in its old form." And further on "... and not let the more conservative members persist with the old routine without giving full and open minded consideration to the problems; its moral implications are to my mind much more important than any considerations of preserving tradition."

A few years ago the wording in our Work was modified too, but it still contains the meaning, this will happen to you, if you betray us! Sure the edge was taken off in changing from "... under no less a penalty etc." to "...ever bearing in mind..." but is reinstated and retained by "... should I in the least, etc. ..."

Then in the second degree something similar plus a password based on mass-slaughter!

The third degree is an accumulation of bloodshed, which clouds over the valuable teachings contained in it. First there is the penalty still different from the two preceding degrees, repeated again by the W.M. as he approaches the candidate as such. Later during the pageant or dramatization all three penalties are repeated twice in full and executed.

Is all this really necessary and important to the practise of our Craft? How many candidates have we lost because of this? They might have made a valuable addition to the membership and contributed to the Craft if they would have not been repulsed by spectres and ghosts from barbaric times, which have in my opinion no place in a Lodge and should never had any cause to be there in the first place.

After all this, which might have some of you shocked and maybe insulted, but without any intent on my side of doing so, let me make a suggestion: Take the penalties out of the obligations, and if they really have to be retained, integrate them in a charge to the candidate to the effect of instructing him, that in ages past treason was considered such a serious and despicable offence that it was punished by the most severe penalties, historically speaking, our penalties are the legal penalties for treason in medieval England and with some modifications in other countries.

Wouldn't it be better and more in line with our philosophy to remind an already nervous and excited candidate of his integrity, honesty and honour, instead of mingling the name of T.G.A.O.T.U., humanitarian duties and savage butchering?

"... If we practice what we preach we will enrich our own lives and demonstrate to others that we are not hypocrites. Some of us put on whatever mannerisms we interpret as Masonic at the same time we put on our apron, and just as quickly shed them when the meeting is over ..."

W. Bro. S. Ross Tarves  
(St. Marks Lodge No. 118)