

# THE LODGE OF FIJI

No. 1931 E.C.



MASTER

W. BRO. H. EDMUNDS.

1st February 1959.

Dear Sir & Brother,

You are summoned to attend the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Lodge to be held at Freemasons' Hall, Gladstone Road, Suva, on—

**MONDAY, 16th FEBRUARY 1959.**

The Lodge will be tyled at 7.30 p.m. precisely, and Visitors will be admitted at 8 p.m.

By command of the Worshipful Master,

Yours fraternally,

L. C. B. SCHIERLING,

Secretary.

G.P.O. Box 154, Suva.

BRO. ....

All dues should be paid to:

THE TREASURER

G.P.O. Box 154, SUVA.

|                            |          |          |          |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Arrears of Dues ... ..     | £        | :        | :        |
| Annual dues to 30/6/59 ... | £        | :        | :        |
| <b>Total ... ..</b>        | <b>£</b> | <b>:</b> | <b>:</b> |

"From antient times no master or fellow could be absent from his lodge, especially when warned to appear at it, without incurring a severe censure, unless it appeared to the master and wardens that pure necessity hindered him."

# AGENDA

1. To read the Business Paper.
2. To read the Minutes.
3. Correspondence.
4. Treasurer's Balances.
5. To pass accounts for payment,
6. To raise Bro. J. S. McCallum
7. General

The Worshipful Master will be assisted by--

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| V. W. Bro. R. L. Muir | G. I. Exhort  |
| W. Bro. G. B. Gregory | O. G. R.      |
| W. Bro. E. Holton     | S. & S.       |
| Bro. A. Sim           | C. after Inv. |
| Bro. C. L. James      | T. H.         |
| Bro. D. Tilley        | T. B.         |
| Bro. W. W. Bentley    | Ext. S. & S.  |
| Bro. Justin Lewis     | W. T.         |

## TOASTS.

Canada  
Visitors

W. Bro. L. C. Schierling  
Bro. S. M. Waddingham

LODGE OF REHEARSAL will be held at **4.30** p.m.  
on **FRIDAY** the 13th February, 1959. Brethren  
are cordially invited to attend.

"Be very cautious whom you recommend as a Candidate for initiation, one false step on this point may be fatal. If you introduce a disputatious person confusion will be produced, which may end in dissolution of the Lodge. If you have a good Lodge, keep it select. Great numbers are not always beneficial." Dr. OLIVER.

# The Lodge of Fiji.

No. 1931 E.C.



Mr. John Fenton Cooper, 21 years of age, Bank Officer at Suva has been mentioned as a candidate for initiation into Free-Masonry at this Lodge.

Any Brother wishing to make any representation regarding the candidate should communicate **AT ONCE** with the Worshipful Master.

Master :  
W. Bro. H. EDMUNDS

Secretary :  
W. Bro. L. C. SCHIERLING  
G.P.O. Box 154, Suva

Vol. 13. No. 8



# THE GAVEL

OFFICIAL ORGAN of THE LODGE OF FIJI, No. 1931. E.C.

Editor (Original and current):

V. W. Bro. R. L. MUNRO, LL.B. G. Inspector, Fiji, P.M.

1st February, 1959

## THE EDITOR REGRETS

We express our regrets that the "Gavel" was circulated so late last month. We did our part - our copy was with the typiste (a Freemason's married daughter, incidentally) before the 1st January, and the copy was typed, but thereafter the snags developed. The principal factor was, our agents inform us, that supplies of the front sheet ran out. Tut, tut!

## A C C U R A C Y

To know the origins of some of the fine phrases in the ritual and with that knowledge to flavour their teachings with a spiritual insight into the depths of their meaning, is vastly more important than the most exact repetition of words like the outpouring of an automatic phonograph.

Accuracy should be the objective of every good orator, but it should be the accuracy with knowledge of the inner-meaning of the words spoken.

Only thus can he learn the reward of hearing his Brethren say, "He gives that just as if he were making it up as he goes along". That is the highest praise and is born only by accuracy, knowledge and sincerity. As you present to the neophyte these masterpieces of the ages, do you have an inward feeling they contain wisdom that has never been excelled? That you are delivering to the candidate a message that should be to him the most far-reaching, inspiring character building plan of life, that only the chief Architect of the Universe could draw?

If so, you will not be concerned with oratory of the entertainment of those on the sidelines. You will be thinking only of your duty to God and the candidate. Your sincerity will be so felt that a misspoken word will be unnoticed, and when you will have finished, everyone will feel he has been in the presence of God.

- Exchange.

## THE BUSINESS PAPER

or extracts from the

MINUTES OF THE LODGE OF FIJI NO. 1931 E.C. HELD AT FREEMASONS' HALL, GLADSTONE ROAD, SUVA, ON MONDAY 19TH JANUARY, 1959.

### OPENING:

The Lodge was opened at 7.30 p.m. prompt time.

### ATTENDANCE:

The Worshipful Master presided over an attendance of 31 Brethren.

### OFFICERS:

|               |                               |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Senior Warden | Bro. W.W. Bentley             |
| Junior Warden | Bro. B. Collins               |
| Chaplain      | W. Bro. E. Bolton             |
| Treasurer     | Bro. C.R. Hayman (Acting)     |
| Secretary     | W. Bro. L.C. Schierling       |
| Senior Deacon | Bro. S.M. Waddingham          |
| Junior Deacon | Bro. H. Akins (Acting)        |
| D. of C.      | W. Bro. L.F. Garnett (Acting) |

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Asst. Secretary | Bro. D.B.V. Treliving      |
| Organist        | Bro. M.J. Bay              |
| I.G.            | Bro. E.L. James            |
| Tyler           | Bro. R.W. Steward (Acting) |
| Steward         | Bro. R. Payne              |
| Steward         | Bro. D.T. Boddy.           |

MEMBERS:

V.W. Bro. R.L. Munro, G.I., and W. Bro. L.C. Bentley, O.G.R., and Bros. E. Smith, A. Simm, A. Savery, P. Allen, W.E. Tilley, C.C. Clayton and J.S. McCallum.

VISITORS:

Lodge Maunganui No. 78 N.Z.C., W. Bro. W.H. Suckling. Lodge Verity No. 57C N.S.W.C., Bro. N.L. MacKenzie. Lodge Rangatiki No. 38 N.Z.C., Bro. F.T.C. Morgan. Lodge Otanaki N.Z.C., Bro. E.J. Cunliffe. Lodge St. Andrews No. 412 S.C., Bro. R.T. Rush. Lodge Pittsworth No. 91 Q.C., Bro. C.F. Hartman. Lodge Ulster No. 62 N.Z., Bro. A.C.A. Palliser. Lodge Jordan No. 1339 S.C., Bro. A.T. Bowles.

REWA'S P.M.'S BOARD:

A letter was received from the Rewa Lodge of Viti submitting for the approval of the Lodge the modified design of an Honour's Board which is to adorn the North wall of the Temple, in accordance with a resolution passed at the Regular Meeting held on the 15th August, 1955. The modified design was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bro. Treasurer reported a credit balance of £270.18s. 5d. in the Bank of New South Wales Savings Bank.

ACCOUNTS:

Accounts duly vouched for totalling £62. 3s. 5d. were passed for payment; included in this amount was the sum of £34.18s. 7d., being Town Rates for the first half of the year, 1959.

CHILDREN'S XMAS PARTY:

Bro. Junior Warden reported a most successful and enjoyable children's Xmas Party in the Lodge Refectory on Saturday, 20th December, and after paying all accounts, a small credit balance remained.

BALLOT:

A ballot was taken for Bro. Albert Charles Alwynne Palliser, Master Mason of Lodge Ulster No. 62 N.Z. Constitution as a Joining Member. The ballot proved 'all-clear', and Bro. Palliser being in attendance, was admitted and took the declaration of allegiance to the United Grand Lodge of England.

LECTURE:

At the request of the Worshipful Master, V.W. Bro. R.L. Munro, Grand Inspector, then delivered a lecture. This was devoted both to speculative and operative Free-masonry and the subjects covered were - "What is Free-masonry?", "How Long has the Craft operated", and several important practical matters of Lodge working and the conduct of Brethren.

The Worshipful Master on behalf of the Brethren thanked V.W. Bro. Grand Inspector for his inspiring lecture which had been most instructive and appreciated by all present, particularly as some of the points raised would be of great assistance and guidance to Brethren.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

W. Bro. L.C. Bentley, O.G.R., gave notice that at the next Regular Meeting he would propose Mr. John Fenton Cooper, aged 21 years, Bank Officer, as a candidate for initiation into Free-masonry at this Lodge.

PROPOSAL:

W. Bro. Schierling proposed that Bro. Junior Warden discuss with Rewa Lodge of Viti the possibility of holding a joint Rewa and Fiji Lodge Members Ladies' Night, late April or early May next and to report back to the next meeting. This was seconded by Bro. Junior Warden.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were extended on behalf of W. Bros. C. Israel, F. Mote, G.B. Gregory and R.C. Farquhar and Bros. A.S. Lewis, T.P. Gardiner, A.C. O'Reilly and H.J. Young.

GREETINGS:

Greetings were extended on behalf of W. Bros. A.S. Martin, G.K. Shepherd and R.J. Woodman, also on behalf of Bro. E.D. McLeay of Waini by visiting Bro. E.J. Cunliffe.

CLOSING:

The usual questions having been asked, the Lodge was closed in Peace and harmony at 9.35 p.m.

IN THE REFECTORY 19.1.59

Our good Bro. Junior Deacon was holidaying in Levuka at the time of our meeting so we have no notes of the oratory that enlivened the festive board.

However, although the local brew was not served (we consumed such a vast quantity of this delectable product at our previous meeting that our several contributions of 4s. Od. a member for the South were really only a gesture and nowhere near the cost of our revelry) we had the happiest time.

W. Bro. Lionel GARNETT O.G.R., acted as Director of Ceremonies in the absence also of W. Bro. G.B. Gregory, Ass't. D.C., and he did it splendidly. He made a speech of his own thanking the Grand Inspector for his lecture, he gave us happy introductions, and he kept things moving along with spirited quips and lively honours.

The Visitors were toasted by Br. R. PAYNE in what must have been his first toast and our Brother handled it splendidly.

The replies were of high quality and thoroughly enjoyable, and in most cases were both entertaining and instructive.

We had no musical item beyond our still proclaimed hit, "Top o' the Morning", compered by our Organist, Bro. Max BAY. Where, these nights, are W. Bro. Alf MARLOW and his cornet, and Bro. Gib MOUAT and his banjo? Remember the "Laughing Song"? And when did we last applaud W. Bros. Bob FARQUHAR and Noel LEVY each with his fruitiest of baritone?

We should devote more attention to our musical diversions in the Refectory, so, Bro. Organist, if you have read this far, being Director of Music and responsible for "the concord of sweet sounds" both within and outside the Lodge, what do you propose to do about them?

To end a thoroughly happy evening's work and relaxation, the Tyler's toast was honoured at 11 p.m.

- R.L.M.

BE-YOND THE REEF

or

PERSONALIA and CORRESPONDENCE

Conditions for our January meeting were not oppressive by any means and it is only since that very night, almost, that it has started to rain. It is strange to read about the heat in Australia and New Zealand, and the floods in New South Wales when we should be getting our abundance of heat, humidity, and rain. Perhaps the December hurricane helped!

Numerous overseas Brethren sent Xmas cards which were duly announced at our January meeting. It was good to get so many happy tokens.

At long last we had a long newsy letter from W. Bro. Bill DRYSDALE, chasing the Inland Revenue in Hong Kong, with donations to the "Gavel" and the Ba Building Fund. Thank you Bro. Bill. We are glad to know you are joining an E.C. Lodge there.

The Grand Secretary of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Colorado, M.W. Bro. Harry W. BUNDY, who is on our mailing list, has been good enough to write us several most interesting letters, thereby putting us to deep shame because we are bad correspondents thinking we are so busy when in fact we are merely doing a host of less important things. Here are extracts from two recent letters :

1. "I have been wanting to ask you if you could give me the translation of a motto which appears on a stamp of Tonga in some of the Friendly Islands, I believe. The quotation is as follows :

'KOBOTUA MO TOGAKE HOKUTOFIA TO TOGI, O TOHI'

As you may suspect from this, I am a stamp collector and have many pleasant hours out of the stamps I receive from various correspondents all over the world. Do you have anyone in Fiji or Suva who might be interested in that and is a brother Mason? I have also a very interested assistant in the Grand Lodge Library and Museum, Worshipful Bro. George B. Clark. He has a collection of stamps carrying mottos and this happens to be one of those mottos which I am asking you to secure for me a translation, if possible. I have no idea whether Tonga is near Fiji but perhaps someone there may be a linguist and be able to tell us what the translation is. So far, I have been unable to find it here in the States.

In speaking of this, if there are any stamps which you have received in your correspondence from the South Sea Islands I would be delighted to receive some of them for Brother Clark and myself. Don't go to any expense or any trouble but I know that most secretaries keep novel stamps in a drawer of their desk for someone who may want them at a later date."

We have several members who can attend to the translation? May we have it from someone, please?

2. "I had the pleasure in October of being introduced to the Earl of Scarborough, M.W. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, to Sir Allan Adair, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Secretary J.W. Stubbs, all three of whom were in attendance at the dedication of the Masonic Memorial Temple in San Francisco on that date. All three of them were delightful gentlemen and wonderful Brethren."

We miss our W. Bro. Director of Ceremonies who is still holidaying in New Zealand drinking 4/6 a bottle sherry in lieu of unprocurable spirits. You can't write much of a letter - to - the - editor on that type of inspiration, W. Bro. MARTIN. Anyhow, Let's have a letter, even if only to say you miss us and enjoy the "Gavel".

Bro. Arthur E.R. GILLIGAN, England cricket captain in 1924/25, passed through Suva on Sunday the 25th January when once again we had the fraternal pleasure of looking after him. No cricketer could have a finer reputation than Arthur Gilligan, and again we say that it is good that prominent men are good Freemasons.

As further evidence of how far the "Gavel" circulates, recently we had a warm letter from W. Bro. F.C. TOOGOOD, P.A.G.D.C., Pres. Dist. Bd. of Gen. Purposes of the District Grand Lodge of South America (Northern Division) which meets at Rua Sao Joaouim 457, Sao Paulo, Brazil! We deeply reciprocate your fraternal greetings, Bro. Toogood, and regret our delay in acknowledging them. (Does any member of the Lodge recall this Brother?)

POINTS OF PROCEDURE: GRAND LODGE

(From the Masonic Year Book 1959)

DECISIONS BY THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES 1917-58

BALLOTING, COLLECTIVE.

Is a Collective Ballot regular? If 'yes', would a sufficient number of black balls exclude all the Candidates, or should the ballot be retaken individually?

A. Collective Ballot is regular, provided that, if there be one black ball, each Candidate should be balloted for individually.

INITIATE.

(a) Where should the Initiate be seated in Lodge after the Ceremony?

A. In the north-east immediately on the right of the Senior Deacon.

(b) Has the Initiate any precedence in an out-going procession from the Lodge?

A. No.

MASONIC FUNERALS.

It has been brought to the notice of the Board that there have been recent instances in which some of our Brethren have intervened at the funeral of a Brother in a manner likely to cause distress to relatives and other mourners, as well as to those attending the burial service, many of whom are not Masons.

The Board strongly condemns such conduct, and emphasizes that there should be no Masonic participation in any funeral service except the inclusion of Masonic prayers at the request of the nearest relatives, and with the approval of the officiating Clergyman or Minister; that Masonry is not a religion and acknowledges no Masonic Service as a substitute for, or addition to, a religious funeral service.

And so, Brethren all, we wish you well.