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FAKE IS DENOUNCED

OFFICERS OF MASONIC LODGE BRAND "FEDERATION"

Sale of Rights is Exposed—Prosecution in Canada Results in Fine and Deportation

(Portland Oregonian)

That a coterie of unprincipled men are victimizing many who would join the Masonic order by taking what fees they can collect for admission to a bogus order of Masonry is the charge of Grand Secretary Robinson, of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Oregon. Mr. Robinson says that this "confidence game" has been going on for years. Two members of the order, which is styled "American Masonic Federation," Nathan B. Wineberg and Joseph Mendel, were fined \$200 each by Magistrate Shaw in Vancouver, B. C., last December and were deported from Canada. The charge was obtaining money under false pretenses.

The grand organizer of these "Clandestine Masons," as they have been called, is McBlain Thompson, of Salt Lake City, who, according to a letter from Alfred A. Murray, grand secretary of the grand chapter of Scotland to Grand Secretary Robinson, is an expelled Mason.

The organizers of the American Federation in Oregon have been A. E. Lucas and W. H. Lindsay. Lucas began operations in Portland in 1910 under authority of McBlain Thompson. He had offices in North End, where according to the Grand Secretary Robinson, he pretended to confer 3 degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry on his victims in the short time of 35 minutes, charging a fee of \$35.

After he had made considerable money peddling his spurious masonry he transferred the business to W. H. Lindsay for \$400," said Secretary Robinson yesterday. "Lindsay operated the business for some time until he was arrested by the Portland police for contributing to the delinquency of small boys. He was tried in Judge McGinn's court, convicted and paroled. Then he disappeared and has not been heard of since.

After Lindsay's disappearance the business of the American Federation was transferred to A. J. Court, G. B. M. Sommerfield, S. H. Haines, J. A. Wheeler, P. A. Johnson and others, who are still pretending to organize lodges and confer Masonic degrees on anyone that they can prevail upon to put up the money.

These self-constituted officials pretend to confer any degree of masonry from the first to the 33d degree, and many other degrees not recognized by legitimate Masons. As long as their victims have the money, these impostors will give them some kind of degrees and call it masonry. And of course if any of these victims come to any of our lodges we cannot admit them. They cannot be recognized by any Masonic lodge in this country.

"There have been about 20 victims of this bogus Masonry in Portland. T. C. Hunt, who recently was admitted to the bar in this city, is one of them. He sued the organizers for securing money under false pretenses. The case was tried before Judge Kavanaugh. The jury stood nine to three for conviction. At a second trial the organizers were acquitted. It was shown by their attorney that no fraud was intended in proof whereof he pointed to a sentence in small type on the bottom of the certificate which read: "This does not give you the right to attend any other rite."

A stack of letters four inches high in the possession of Grand Secretary Robinson, most of them from Lucas to Lindsay, and some of them from Thompson to Lindsay throws some light on the operations of the organizers and where a greater part of the fees went.

Following is a letter written by Grand Secretary Robinson in answer to an inquiry made in regard to the "Clandestine Masons":

"In reply to your question: "What standing will my friend, Mr. — have in the Masonic fraternity and will he be permitted to visit lodges of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in Oregon if he should join a lodge of the American Federation? I have to inform you that he would have no standing in, neither will he be permitted to visit or be recognized as a Mason by any member of any lodge of A. F. and A. M. of Oregon or any other state or country in the world.

"The American Masonic Federation, like many other imitations of Masonic bodies, are known and branded by all A. F. and A. M. Masons as clandestines or fake Masons.

to-wit: McBlain Thompson, A. J. Court G. B. M. Sommerfield S. H. Haines, J. A. Wheeler or P. A. Johnson, have any authority from any lodge or grand lodge of the A. F. and A. Masons in this or any other country to establish lodges or confer Masonic degrees.

"Any person joining the 'American Federation' expecting that they are getting legitimate masonry or expecting to be recognized as Masons or permitted to visit or affiliate with the lodges of the A. F. and A. M. will be badly disappointed.

"No, it is not true that the Courts of Oregon have pronounced the 'American Federation' a legitimate body. One of their own victims (F. C. Hunt) when he found that he had been buncoed had them arrested and tried for 'obtaining money under false pretenses,' and they only escaped conviction on a technicality.

"On February 16 two of the agents of the 'American Federation' attempted to force their spurious Masonry on some persons in Vancouver, B. C. They were arrested, tried and convicted and fined two hundred dollars and warned by the judge that a repetition of the offense would be more severely dealt with and punished with a prison sentence."

The fraternity of A. F. and A. Masons are in no way connected with or responsible for the claims put forth by the above named clandestine body calling themselves Masons.

"These clandestine or fake 'Masons' have been exposed so many times through the public press and otherwise that it is astonishing any intelligent person can be so shamefully imposed upon by them.

"If you will call at this office I will show you letters from one of their members to another of their members where they divided the money obtained from some of their victims and where one of them bought from another of their agents the (pretended) right to establish lodges in Oregon.

"Also I will show you letters from the Grand Lodge of Scotland denying that it (the Grand Lodge of Scotland) ever gave the 'American Masonic Federation' any charter or authority to establish lodges in America or elsewhere.

"No Masonic Grand Body of Scotland or any other country can legally form Masonic lodges in America.

"Hoping I have made this so very plain that it can be understood, I am fraternally yours.

JAMES F. ROBINSON,
 Grand Secretary Grand Lodge A. F. and A. M. of Oregon.

Following are extracts from and copies of letters from Grand Secretaries of England and Scotland bearing on the standing of McBlain Thompson and others connected with the American Masonic Federation.

Extract from letter of Albert A. A. Murray to W. H. Lindsay, a member of the "American Masonic Federation":

"Edinburgh, Scotland, Feb. 15, 1911.

"W. H. Lindsay:—I have received your letter of January 27 * * *

"Fourth—its active members are, so far as I know, of no standing whatsoever.

"Fifth—The Supreme Court Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, which is the only legitimate Royal Arch body in Scotland, does not recognize the Council of Rites.

"The latter has no authority whatever to confer the Royal Arch degree, either in Scotland or out of it.

"In no circumstance will Thompson or his confederates, in my opinion, be recognized by the Grand Prior" (Knights Templars).

"They have absolutely no right to confer the degrees. Degrees conferred by them or by their authority will not be recognized by any of the Templar jurisdictions throughout the world.

"Neither Spence, Thompson or Jamison have the thirty-third degree."
 (Signed) "ALFRED A. A. MURRAY."
 Grand Secretary Grand Chapter, Scotland.

of Scotland:
 "Edinburgh, Scotland, Nov. 6, 1912
 —Jas. F. Robinson, Grand Secretary
 I beg to acknowledge your letter of 24th October and I beg to reply officially and categorically as follows:
 "The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland never did issue any authority to Mathew McBlain Thompson to organize or confer any of the degrees under its authority conform to its constitution.

"He did not and does not now hold either as an individual or as a deputy or in any other capacity whatever, any such authority from it to confer such degrees in any part of the world whatever.

"He does not possess now, and has never received from any of the bodies recognized as legitimate Masonic bodies by the grand lodge, or the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland any authority to confer Masonic degrees.

(Signed) ALFRED A. A. MURRAY
 Grand Secretary, Grand Chapter Scotland."

This letter is also of the date November 6, 1912 from Mr. Murray to Mr. Robinson:

" * * * Nearly all of the descriptions you quote in connection with Thompson are prevarications of the truth, in the sense that he is an expelled Mason, and that he is not a member of the recognized Masonic bodies in Scotland bearing the descriptions quoted by you.

"I think that you should not hesitate to publish as widely as possible the fact of the expulsion."

Copy of letter received from grand secretary, grand lodge, England:

"London, March 24th, 1914, James F. Robinson, Grand Secretary: In reply to your inquiry in your letter of the 10th inst. The Grand Lodge of England knows nothing of the body styling itself 'The American Masonic Federation, and has never recognized or exchanged representatives with it.

(Signed) E. LETCHWORTH,
 Grand Secretary Grand Lodge England."

Paisley Pick-Ups
 (Chewaucan Press)

Perry Banister sold the Chamberlain ranch consisting of 160 acres located on the Chewaucan River to B. F. Cannon, last week.

The rumor has been spread about that this part of the county must have a candidate in the field for County Commissioner and as a result many friends of Zed Harris are coupling his name with the position.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Webster was the scene of a merry surprise party last Friday evening when about twenty-five of their friends and neighbors gathered there bringing music and a basket lunch. Lunch was served at twelve and dancing was enjoyed up until a late hour. Everybody reported a fine time.

C. R. Potts is making some big improvements at the Paisley Lumber Company mill on Summer Lake among which is a long tramway from the mill to the top of the hill above the planer. From this point he is building a chute to the planer a distance of 3200 feet with a fall of 800 feet. When completed the company will use this method of transporting all their lumber to the bottom of the hill where it will be easy to haul away.

Little Arthur Harper, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Harper, was badly bitten about the hand and arm by a dog last week. His arm was very painful for some time and is still swollen.

C. H. McKendree, one of the promoters of the Fall River power project, and a resident of Lakeview was in Paisley attending to business matters last Thursday.

At a meeting of the Chewaucan wagon road committee held May 2, at which bids for the different divisions were received it developed that to complete the road according to the bids would require an expenditure of \$3261.25. This was considered excessive and all bids were rejected although some of them were reasonable and if the other bids had been such that the road could have been completed with the money and work available the contracts would have been awarded.

Secretary of Agriculture Houston will call a conference of Western woolgrowers and wool manufacturers of the country to meet at Washington in June.

Chamberlain's Liniment

This preparation is intended especially for rheumatism, lame back, sprains and like ailments. It is a favorite with people who are well acquainted with its splendid qualities. Mrs. Charles Tanner, Wabash, Ind., says of it, "I have found Chamberlain's Liniment the best thing for lame back and sprains I have ever used. It works like a charm and relieves pain and soreness. It has been used by others of my family as well as myself for upwards of twenty years." 25 and 50 cent bottles for sale by all dealers.

NARROW ESCAPES

Hudson Maxim Has Figured In Some Perilous Incidents.

LUCKY AT CHEATING DEATH.

On One Gun Testing Occasion a Sudden Impulse to Run, Which He Obeyed, Was the Means of Saving His Life—A Magazine That Got Its Second Wind.

One of the most thrilling adventures in my experience took place at the government proving grounds at Sandy Hook, N. J., when the United States government was testing maximit before adopting it.

Near a light frame building in which I was filling shells with maximit, a ten inch gun was being tested. A number of shots had been fired from the big gun. Just as I had concluded my work and started for the wharf to take the government tug for New York, the signal was sounded for another shot. I was walking along a stretch of railway track directly behind the gun.

At that instant I remembered that several years before, when one of these guns was being tested, the breechlock had blown out, passed through the bombproof and killed six officers and men, but I argued with myself that the chance was infinitely remote that the breechlock would be blown out of the present gun on this discharge at the very instant I was in range, but upon a sudden impulse I ran with all my might.

The gun was discharged. I looked round just in time to see the huge breechlock pass through a building near the one in which I had been at work. It came up the track, striking and breaking one of the rails over which I had passed. It ricocheted against the top of the old granite fort and glanced high into the air. A shower of stones and debris fell over a wide area and many fragments struck the ground close to me.

I walked back to the scene of the accident and found that the windows in the little building where I had been filling maximit shells were completely riddled with partly burned cylinders of smokeless powder that had been blown from the gun.

I once had another curious experience at Sandy Hook during some trials of the Maxim automatic machine gun. Among the severe tests to which the gun was subjected was one intended to simulate what might occur in making a landing upon the seashore, where the mechanism of the gun might get filled with sand. The test is known as the "sand test."

The gun being tested at the time was of the kind using black gunpowder cartridges, for it was before the introduction of smokeless powder. There was so much energy in the recoil of the barrel that a great deal of sand could be thrown into the mechanism without interfering with the working of the gun.

The commanding officer did not arrive to see the gun fired until after the board in charge had completed the test. He then appeared and demanded that the firing should be continued for his benefit. The chairman of the experimental board demurred, saying that the gun had passed through the test admirably and that it was too bad to fire it more than was absolutely necessary, with its mechanism filled with sand. But the commander insisted.

A schooner was approaching near the line of fire. The commander said he only wanted to see a few rounds fired and that the firing would be completed before the schooner would come within range. Accordingly a bolt of 333 rounds was inserted, and the firing begun. After perhaps fifty rounds were fired the command was given "Cease firing," but the gun kept right on. It afterward proved that the trigger was blocked by sand, so that it was impossible to stop the gun. The schooner came into range, and the bullets flew over and around her.

My assistant, who was firing the gun, did his best to work the trigger and stop it. It did not occur to him on the instant to unlumber the gun and swing it round so as to bring the schooner out of range. As the gun fired at the rate of 750 shots a minute the firing was all over inside half a minute.

Fortunately no damage was done. When the same gun was undergoing a sand test at Annapolis, Md., I came very near being killed by it.

The gun had passed successfully through a severe sand test, but the officer in charge wanted to see whether he could put enough sand into the gun to stop it. So he had the gun box filled full. The gun fired about 150 rounds and then stopped. My assistant threw down the safe—that is to say, locked the trigger, so that it could not be pulled—and began clearing the gun box.

Thinking that the gun was safe, I was just about to step round in front of it. Suddenly it fired a dozen or more shots so close to me that my clothes were seared by the powder gases.