

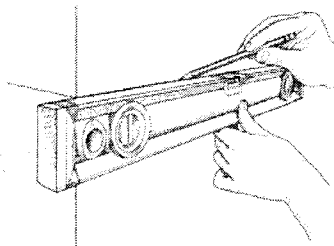
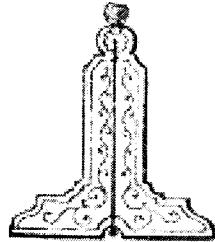
The King's Chronicle

of King Edward VII Masonic Lodge in Chippawa

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The Level

The original level had a flat base, and when hung from a string, the base was at right angles to the plumb line and could be sighted along to prove horizontals – either to check the flatness of an existing structure or to determine a target point in the distance which is of the same altitude

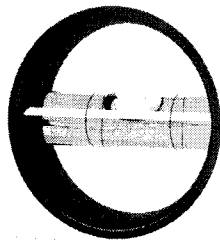


Our modern level is a straight bar containing a tube of liquid. Horizontal position is established by checking the position of an air bubble.

It is a working tool, and as such has lessons for us if we, as masons, take time to think about it.

The Level: A Contemplation

The bubble is a good place to start. It has a symmetrical egg-shape and a serenity to it, just like the feeling of peace that is evoked by a perfectly calm pond or lake which has no ripples to disturb it and which reflects the world without any distortion. That's something to aspire to.



When the bubble is centered, the ends of the level are at the same height (altitude).

For us, being centered, psychologically, means being calm, leaning (figuratively) neither left nor right, but being equally distant from the extremes. That's a condition we all would like to experience more often.

The liquid in the tube is inert, unaffected by any external magnetic or electrical influences.

In our lives we often experience irritations and challenges. As masons and men, we should try to remain calm and unbiased when confronted by anxiety or conflicting forces.

Even cold has no lasting effect on this level. If the liquid is frozen, the air bubble absorbs the expansion, then resumes its shape when conditions improve.

So might we try to pull inward a bit when tension mounts around us, protecting our integrity, and then contribute for the benefit of the group when we are more likely to have a positive effect.

The level works somewhat like a teeter-totter or see-saw. When the ends balance, equality of height is established.



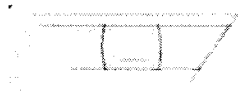
As we try to keep a balance of time and effort to our involvements, we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are giving due attention to each facet of our lives.

We try for balance in a physical way, too. For example, when we group people for photographs, we arrange them to create a counterbalance of weights. Sometimes when I enter a lodge room, I might take a seat opposite to the larger group of members – not to be antisocial but maybe to provide some balance in the environment.

Perhaps that comes in part from my experience as a master. It was aesthetically more pleasing to see an equal spread of members before me.

Watch when we meet on the level at the end of a meeting; we spread ourselves out to give each other space and to create an equal distribution of bodies. It's instinctive.

(continued)

The Level (conclusion)

It's quite an object, this level. Through the lessons drawn from such a working tool and the examples of our brethren who have matured in the craft, masonry tries to instil in us a sense of being centered and in balance with the entanglements we experience.

Despite the forces of opposition we encounter, we strive to temper the intensities.

We are reminded that we joined the order as good people, and keep working to get better.

On Voting

With elections this month, let us consider the words of a character created by Robert J. Sawyer when a girl asked her mother, "Why vote? Your vote won't make a difference."

Answer: "It makes a difference to *me*. We're trying to transition to a new world while keeping our essential humanity, liberty, and individuality intact. Every time we fail to assert our liberties, every time we fail to express our individuality, we lose a piece of ourselves. We might as well be machines."



Niagara 'B' District Light

A Change of Focus

This issue of *The King's Chronicle* is a work in transition (again).

It began as a newsletter for King Edward VII Lodge. Then it placed more emphasis on masonic education. Now it will broaden its scope to reflect the activities in Niagara B District.

Most recently, that function was performed by a publication created by John Newton.

He christened it *District Light*. Through it, John presented a comprehensive view of masonry in our district, but Bro. Newton has so many obligations that he has asked me to take over this challenge.

The *District Light* will be given each of the lodges to distribute as they like.

It will be a forum where lodges can promote their activities.

It will awaken the brethren to the messages and initiatives of the District Deputy and his team of Chairmen.

It will illuminate.

The New Guns in Town

Our new District Deputy Grand Master is W.Bro. Larry Williams of Dominion Lodge. He represents our Grand Master to our lodges. He has already shown himself to be dedicated to his duties.

But here is some other good news:

The Deputy Grand Master (second to the Grand Master of all of Ontario) is R.W.Bro. Donald A. Campbell. He was born in Niagara Falls but did most of his police work in Toronto.

This is the good part: He is a member of Niagara District B! Several years ago he affiliated with King Edward VII Lodge in Chippawa. He attends here when he can and will be a positive force in recognizing the quality of masonry in our area.

You will see him around.

No more will we wonder if Grand Lodge even knows we exist.

This is going to be a good year.