

An Editorial

By Director General JAMES J. DAVIS

"The soul of man yearns for brotherhood and peace"

THE men and women of this great fraternity of ours are believers in peace. We are striving to live in harmony with the message that has come ringing down the ages from the time of the birth of that humble character of Galilee who gave to men a new doctrine—a doctrine of peace on earth, good will among men.

The world has not always heeded this message nor followed closely the path of peace. But however often men have forgotten themselves and nations have entered into war against each other, they have always come back to the ways of peace in answer to the yearning in the hearts of all men to live as brothers in peace and harmony. On the North American continent we have the greatest example of peace in all history. To the north of the border lies the great Dominion of Canada. To the south of it is the United States. Both countries believe in peace. We can take pride in the fact that, along this three-thousand-mile border between the United States and Canada, there is not even a popgun to fortify one country against the other. Fortifications are not necessary between neighbors, and woe to the man who would advocate fortification of the border, which would create animosity, suspicion, hatred, and eventually strife between two peoples who have demonstrated to the world that it is possible to occupy the same continent for a century or more and yet to live in peace as neighbors should.

Much of the credit for this ideal state of affairs belongs to the fraternities of our country. In our own fraternity, a great many members are citizens of Canada. In the 1930 graduating class, from the Mooseheart High School, was a student from Canada. It is but natural that such fraternal activities should foster the peaceful relationships that have existed between us and our neighbor on the north. Our dealings with each other are friendly, free and open and above suspicion. We know each other; we understand each other; and when men know and understand each other, hate cannot exist.

From time to time in the history of the world, we have had examples of just the opposite type of relationships between nations. Perhaps you can recall the visit of Cavour, Prime Minister of Piedmont, about seventy years ago, with Napoleon III in the Alps. They traveled with false passports, met in a hotel under assumed names, and for what? To plot war and destruction against Austria. Like the thief who comes in the night, they moved in stealth, they plotted in secret,

not to bring good to any one out to bring ruin and suffering to their neighbors, scheming and planning to wreck a nation, to destroy peace, and all for the purpose of furthering their own selfish ambitions.

WHAT a change has come over the world since that day not many years ago! The fraternities have helped bring about this change. Perhaps the greatest example of it in all history occurred in our own country just a few months ago, when two great men, one representing an empire of five hundred million people, and the other representing our own country of one hundred and twenty-five millions, met not in secret to plot war and ruin and destruction, but in the open for the avowed purpose of discussing peace so that all the world might benefit. These men did not travel with false passports under assumed names, and they did not meet in secret in a community where no one knew them. One of them, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, began his journey with the eyes of the world focused upon him. He traveled in a great ship filled with newspaper men and others who kept the world in intimate touch with everything that took place. Upon his arrival in the United States, he was met at the boat by an army of men from the press of this country. The greatest publicity was given to every phase of that memorable voyage, and the same policy of open discussions prevailed when he arrived in Washington to carry on his conferences with President Hoover.

These two great men, President Herbert Hoover of the United States and Prime Minister J. Ramsay MacDonald of Great Britain, did not hide their intentions nor their hopes and aspirations from the rest of the world. They traveled to a camp in the mountains of Virginia, and there in the great outdoors carried on their discussions in an effort to bring the world closer to the hope of all mankind—peace on earth, good will among men. Out of their deliberations came much good. The recent London Conference for the Limitation of Naval Armaments was the direct outcome of those discussions on the banks of the Rapidan River in the mountains of Virginia. It was a long step in the direction of universal peace, an ideal difficult at best to attain but one that will eventually be attained. The soul of man yearns for brotherhood and peace.

I visited that camp in the mountains a short time after the discussion and sat on the very log on which those two great men had sat as they talked over international peace and the contribu-



tion that would be made to the cause by the countries they represented. Looking up the mountain side, I saw the source of the Rapidan River that rushes swiftly by that camp on its turbulent journey to the sea.

I saw the rivulets come down the mountain side, meeting each other and joining to make up the mighty stream itself. I saw the water rush past me on its way to the sea. Great boulders obstructed the stream, but the water hurled itself upon them as if in defiance, sending up beautiful cascades. It was interrupted for the moment, but immediately resumed its course toward the mighty ocean.

AND so it is with our fraternities. As the rivulets joining on their way down the mountain side eventually made the great river, so the rivulets of love and affection, of fraternity and peace on earth came down from the slopes of Calvary until today we are closer to our ultimate goal than ever before. Obstructions impede our progress now and then, like the boulders in the stream, but they do not stop our march. The tiny stream of love and service that started in the lodge of the Moose a quarter of a century ago when there were fewer than three hundred men in the entire fraternity, has

gathered strength from year to year until today we have more than three-quarters of a million members, carrying the message of peace on earth and expressing themselves in this great service to childhood so well exemplified at Mooseheart. We are carrying the message to all the world, the message of peace, of harmony, of service, calling attention to the fact that boys and girls must be fed, clothed, educated, and given a fair opportunity to fill their chosen places in the world.

Every graduate from Mooseheart—every orphan boy or girl that we have clothed, educated, and equipped for the battle of life—is a true message bearer of peace. The two men I have mentioned were orphans. President Hoover spent his boyhood days as an orphan on an Iowa farm. Prime



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Minister MacDonald was an orphan boy in a little fishing village in Scotland. These men made the best of the opportunities presented to them, and that is all we expect of our boys and girls who graduate from Mooseheart. Both these eminent statesmen have told me that they received much encouragement during their careers from the members of the fraternal ranks in their communities. What they have accomplished is not beyond the realm of possibility for our graduates also. When we serve others, we serve ourselves. As our graduates go out into the world, may they take along the spirit of fraternity, of harmony, of brotherhood, of peace on earth and good will among men. This done, and their presence will be a blessing to any community.