

vice, and in that way emphasize the Christian character of the Order and the grateful spirit of the members.

Death Rate for the Year 1897.

The following table shows the number of deaths, and the death rate per thousand, in the different jurisdictions. The last column shows the average death rate per thousand for the five years—1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897.

Jurisdiction.	Average Membership 1897.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Average Death Rate per 1,000 for years 1893-1897.
British Columbia.....	653	6	9.14	5.72
California.....	6,899	36	5.29	4.95
Colorado and Utah.....	239	0	0.00	9.65
Illinois.....	3,750	16	4.27	4.53
Indiana.....	1,612	11	6.82	6.07
Iowa.....	561	1	1.78	5.12
Maine.....	2,383	11	4.62	6.21
Manitoba.....	1,890	5	2.65	5.51
Michigan.....	11,473	61	5.37	5.76
Minnesota.....	3,132	12	3.83	4.90
Missouri and Kansas.....	921	6	6.51	3.23
Nebraska.....	275	1	3.63
New Brunswick.....	5,198	37	7.12	6.93
New England.....	1,373	6	4.37	4.79
New Jersey.....	3,551	19	5.35	5.95
New York.....	9,976	52	5.21	5.16
North Dakota.....	1,899	8	4.24	3.56
North West Territories.....	657	5	7.61	5.95
Nova Scotia.....	2,693	20	7.43	5.21
Ohio.....	5,687	26	4.57	4.35
Ontario (Centre).....	9,101	43	4.72	5.42
Ontario (East).....	9,114	54	5.92	5.66
Ontario (West).....	12,480	77	6.17	5.71
Pennsylvania.....	1,026	1	.97	3.65
Prince Edward Island.....	977	6	6.14	5.88
Quebec.....	11,879	89	7.49	6.91
Washington.....	599	3	5.01	5.31
Wisconsin.....	1,696	7	4.13	4.95
Great Britain & Ireland.....	3,406	10	2.93	3.75
Supreme Court Jurisdiction.....	550	2	3.63	4.80

The death rate per thousand of the entire Order for the year 1897 was 5.56, and the average death rate of the entire Order for the years 1893 to 1897, inclusive, was 5.55.

Yours in L., B. & C.,

T. MILLMAN, M.D.,
Sup. Physician.

The above table speaks for itself. It shows more clearly than anything else the high physical character of the membership. That an Order in the 24th year of its history should have a death rate of but 5.56 in the thousand is remarkable; and that the average death rate for the past five years should be but 5.55 is equally gratifying. In New Jersey, Michigan and Ontario, where the Order is oldest, the rate is but a shade above the average. The Supreme Physician is to be congratulated on the testimony the above table bears to his careful selection, and the Order on its phenomenally low Death Rate,

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION.

In the name of Liberty, Benevolence and Concord.

To all Courts and Encampments, Greeting:

Once more we are approaching the anniversary of our beloved Order. During the year now nearing its close, the marked prosperity of former years has been enjoyed to a higher degree than ever before. On every hand evidences of continued and increasing success abound, indicating that a kind Providence takes pleasure in our labors.

I esteem it both a duty and a privilege to call upon the members of our favored Order, wherever residing, to unite in fervent thanksgiving to the Gracious Giver of all good for having spared our lives to enjoy the privilege of working for the extension of the Order; as well as for the peace, unity and signal prosperity enjoyed by us as members of the Independent Order of Foresters.

A year ago we rejoiced in a membership of 110,005, to-day we number over 130,546, a net gain of over 20,541 in one brief year—the largest increase in any one year of our singularly prosperous history.

The small amount payable monthly by our members in the way of assessments has not only been sufficient to meet the sick and death claims of the year, amounting to \$1,050,551.51, but it has also enabled us to add to our surplus, during the twelve months, \$570,408.45, bringing the total surplus for the security of our policyholders up to the magnificent total of \$2,748,191.12.

During the Forestric year that closes 30th June, the Order has been introduced into Norway and Sweden, where already it is firmly established. While no new High Courts have been instituted, Subordinate Courts at an average of *thirty-eight* per month were instituted, and existing courts have been strengthened in membership and perfected in organization.

The year opened with perfect harmony in all our courts and encampments, and the leaders united in an earnest effort to maintain and advance the great prestige of the I.O.F. The year is closing with that harmony not only unbroken, but deepened, and, with the leaders, as one man, seeking the furtherance of the common interests.

"The Temple Building," the corner-stone of which was so auspiciously laid three years ago by His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, Brother the Earl of Aberdeen, is now completed, and for nearly a year has been the headquarters of the Order. The offices are being rapidly filled up, and the success of the "Temple" as an investment of some of our surplus is assured. Its formal dedication to Forestric purposes will take place on the 30th of August.

In view of these tokens of more than usual prosperity, vouchsafed to us in our labors by the Universal Father in Heaven, the Executive Council call upon the whole membership to assemble together in their different localities on Sunday, June the 19th, the twenty-fourth anniversary of the Order, and to proceed together to some place of public worship, and there give thanks to Almighty God for His many mercies, and to pray for the continuance of His loving kindness, endowing the officers of our Order with prudence and wisdom in the administration of our affairs, that humanity may be still further blessed, and His great name glorified by the beneficent work of our Order,