

1897—Disbursements 39,964 43
 1898—Disbursements 38,736 47

From the above tables the conclusion to be drawn is inescapable—it is that, while our receipts have been steadily decreasing, our disbursements have not, as has been persistently asserted, been increasing. On the contrary, as compared with the total disbursements for all purposes for the two fiscal years ending March 31, 1894, the total disbursements for all purposes for the two fiscal years ending March 31st, 1898, were thirty-four per cent. less; or, to compare single years in which no convention of the Supreme Lodge was held, the total disbursements for the year ending March 31st, 1898, were forty and a half per cent. less than the total disbursements for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1894. Notwithstanding these facts, unscrupulous persons have continued to declaim against the "extravagance of the Supreme Lodge," and vehemently to assist that, while our revenues are decreasing, our expenditures are growing larger from year to year; and there are doubtless many honest and well-meaning members of the rank and file who actually believe these assertions to be true.

The question naturally suggests itself, what is the cause of the continuous and rapid decrease of our cash receipts. Those of you who are familiar with our system of revenue know that the bulk of our receipts comes from the sale of supplies. In proportion as our sales fall off, our revenue must inevitably decrease. With what alarming rapidity this has taken place, the appended table discloses:

SALES OF SUPPLIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31—

Grand Domain.	1893.	1894.
Alabama	\$1,992 55	\$1,476 06
Arizona	184 40	208 65
Arkansas	318 70	948 85
British Columbia..	587 90	215 15
California.....	3,836 10	1,703 95
Colorado.....	2,836 35	1,385 83
Connecticut	441 00	987 80
Delaware	154 40	62 25
Dist. of Columbia..	118 65	288 90
Florida.....	580 40	650 60
Georgia.....	1,166 25	730 53
Idaho.....	693 75	411 57
Illinois.....	7,350 95	5,626 75
Indiana.....	5,394 05	3,944 35
Indian Territory ..	129 05	394 45
Iowa.....	3,564 45	3,675 39
Kansas.....	3,186 30	1,779 29
Kentucky.....	911 00	876 19
Louisiana	1,280 25	1,124 85
Maine.....	829 95	1,282 50
Manitoba	191 50	96 05
Maritime Provinces..	276 45	128 53
Maryland.....	591 60	605 90
Massachusetts.....	2,414 95	3,257 19
Michigan.....	1,257 10	1,196 59
Minnesota.....	2,245 30	1,210 70
Mississippi.....	1,084 95	912 40
Missouri.....	5,963 50	3,389 69
Montana.....	541 65	430 50
Nebraska.....	714 20	1,587 75
Nevada.....	149 90	211 65
New Hampshire.....	687 85	401 13
New Jersey.....	1,722 60	1,680 04
New Mexico.....	223 55	107 55
New York.....	2,352 06	4,030 60
North Carolina.....	376 30	649 88
North Dakota.....	228 60	418 53
Ohio.....	7,430 75	5,081 25
Oklahoma.....	114 15	202 95

Ontario.....	268 80	194 85
Oregon.....	482 43	654 20
Pennsylvania.....	3,501 71	4,211 29
Rhode Island.....	1,833 70	610 05
South Carolina.....	808 60	713 50
South Dakota.....	980 15	385 60
Tennessee.....	2,926 05	1,729 89
Texas.....	3,311 85	2,170 05
Utah.....	230 50	93 03
Vermont.....	137 05	124 15
Virginia.....	636 65	683 25
Washington.....	1,760 25	1,867 95
West Virginia.....	863 45	1,775 69
Wisconsin.....	1,039 50	973 15
Wyoming.....	211 10	229 75

\$83,675 42 \$69,819 98

Grand Domain.	1897.	1898.
Alabama.....	\$1,071 00	\$1,071 00
Arizona.....	325 00	278 65
Arkansas.....	638 40	369 47
British Columbia..	223 20	39 20
California.....	1,350 49	922 50
Colorado.....	1,227 77	1,019 63
Connecticut.....	870 37	463 06
Delaware.....	187 77	140 85
District of Columbia	207 42	63 15
Florida.....	588 82	597 11
Georgia.....	7 1 90	838 20
Idaho.....	21 33	290 31
Illinois.....	6,373 40	4,441 21
Indiana.....	4,826 50	3,771 10
Indian Territory ..	523 88	455 68
Iowa.....	4,140 70	3,555 22
Kansas.....	1,478 35	955 41
Kentucky.....	1,169 21	851 42
Louisiana	1,438 10	829 09
Maine.....	1,706 25	1,223 65
Manitoba.....	154 56	157 55
Maritime Provinces..	143 50	28 90
Maryland.....	877 20	482 15
Massachusetts.....	2,714 89	2,549 61
Michigan.....	1,930 22	1,147 20
Minnesota.....	1,033 35	783 70
Mississippi.....	912 45	453 92
Missouri.....	2,407 55	1,472 50
Montana.....	841 15	576 28
Nebraska.....	973 15	389 05
Nevada.....	195 91	81 26
New Hampshire.....	769 25	825 15
New Jersey.....	1,665 75	1,432 15
New Mexico.....	165 70	29 58
New York.....	3,551 68	2,021 80
North Carolina.....	983 02	610 62
North Dakota.....	515 70	323 46
Ohio.....	11,554 40	4,037 15
Oklahoma.....	302 55	240 97
Ontario.....	364 80	407 45
Oregon.....	492 35	354 70
Pennsylvania.....	4,607 51	3,975 94
Rhode Island.....	612 75	367 85
South Carolina.....	748 36	676 40
South Dakota.....	344 90	212 30
Tennessee.....	1,273 63	962 57
Texas.....	2,055 30	1,660 54
Utah.....	246 50	253 90
Vermont.....	357 20	361 29
Virginia.....	397 14	460 12
Washington.....	509 86	314 12
West Virginia.....	986 47	824 35
Wisconsin.....	1,413 22	803 55
Wyoming.....	156 33	41 59

\$75,569 19 \$51,234 96

Grand Domain.	1895.	1896.
Alabama.....	\$1,057 75	\$ 908 44
Arizona.....	141 25	103 10
Arkansas.....	332 61	187 05
British Columbia..	201 40	207 65
California.....	1,073 98	1,012 33