

Good citizenship implies provision not only for the wife and children, but also for the widow and orphans. It is good to say "They shall not want while I live;" it is even better to say "They will be provided for after I am gone."

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December in past years has been one of the best of the twelve months for securing new members. Will every brother who reads this paragraph make the effort to secure one application? That ought to mean 10,000 additions to our ranks.

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The first practical lesson many a man got in thrift he learned when he joined the I.O.F. There are many who never laid by a dollar before they joined the Order who are saving not only enough to pay their assessments, but a little besides. Independent Forestry is a great educator.

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Some courts show their kindly remembrance of the family of a departed brother by sending some token of the fraternal and benevolent spirit at this happy season of the year. The courts who begin it keep it up. They enjoy it. Get your court to try it.

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One's opportunity is the measure and limit of the service he should render to humanity. The humblest service will have its recognition.

"A kindly act is a kernel sown  
That may grow to a goodly tree,  
Shedding its fruit when time has flown  
Down the gulf of eternity."

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There are but few members in the Order who did not at times feel the pinch of paying assessments. To spare a dollar at times is difficult. But how much more preferable the temporary inconvenience to the prolonged suffering that might come to wife and children in the event of the bread winner dying uninsured. Pinch if need be, but don't let the certificate lapse.

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The surplus continues its forward progress. On the 31st of November it was **\$2,458,898.60**. The gain for the month was the tidy sum of **\$52,687.21**, and on the 1st Dec. the surplus stood at **\$2,508,591.30**, or net gain during Nov. **\$49,692.70**. This ought to be particularly reassuring to our friends, and perplexing to the prophets, who for years have been predicting that the surplus had reached its highest limit.

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Times are undoubtedly better than they have been for years. Manufacturers, merchants, professional men, mechanics, farmers, all say that money is more plentiful and circulating more freely. Now is the time to make provision for the future, and those dependent upon us. Many have been wait-

ing for better times before joining the Order. The good times are here. Joining the I.O.F. should not be delayed a day longer.

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This is the season for stock-taking, balancing accounts, and so on. As we look back we find a difference between promise and performance, with the balance unfortunately in favor of the former. The survey should make us humble, but it should also make us diligent. Much can and will be done before the year closes. We expect to report the largest addition to our membership ever received in December of any former year.

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We give in another column the circular of the High Chief Ranger of Eastern Ontario, in which he appeals to the members in his jurisdiction to come to the aid of their brethren of Courts Casselman and Cambridge, who lost their all, and for the time being their employment, by the fires that swept the locality. While the appeal is to the brethren of Eastern Ontario, the practical sympathy of brethren everywhere will doubtless go out to our brethren in their misfortune.

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An esteemed brother writes us that he thinks our rates are too high. His conclusion is based on the fact that the rates are lower in some other Orders. This may be. We never claimed to be the cheapest; but we do claim that we are as cheap as we dare be, expecting, as we do, to continue, and to pay 100 cents on the dollar. The man that expects to leave a solid benefit to his family will find the I.O.F. the right Order to "tie" to.

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Time and again we have urged upon every member of this Order the duty of speaking well of it. If a member can afford to speak ill of it in any particular, we cannot expect the stranger who hears him to be favorably impressed with it. The Order gives more solid benefits than any fraternal society of which we have any knowledge. Its management is able, enterprising and successful, and the record made is one of which any organization might justly be proud.

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If your court meetings are not interesting, whose fault is it? In addition to saying that the meetings are not interesting, what have you done for them? Remember it does not require any marked ability to find fault. It may require some to correct the things with which you are dissatisfied. Interest begets interest; lend a hand in the work. Bring in a candidate. Arrange with the officers for a good initiation. Try and discover something with which you can agree, and if you don't find the meeting interesting we are very much mistaken