

whom 6 were rejected; during the same time there were 48 new members (?), 8 retired and 2 died. How 48 became members without having been applicants we don't see, but  $196 + 250 - 6 = 440$ .  $440 + 48 - (8 + 2) = 478$  members at end of 1880.

During this time two persons died: one J. P. Curran of Quebec, aged 29 years, had paid in \$15.00, and the other, Mrs. Baulac of L'Avenir, aged 49 years, had paid in \$36.00; these two persons received altogether \$461.00. As we have not the figures each one received separately, we deal with the average of \$230.50, or say in round numbers \$250.00 as paid to each one.

Now, if they had been insured in some first-class real Life Insurance Company, without profits, for \$250 each, the person aged 29 would have paid \$4.16 per annum instead of \$7.50, and the one aged 59 would have paid \$8.97 per annum instead of \$18.00, so it is quite evident that security would cost about half as much as insecurity did to these persons.

We have here another feature of this Association: the average amounts paid by these two persons was \$25.50, the average number of members was 337. If we multiply the average amount by the average number of members, we find \$8,593.50, out of which \$461 was paid in death claims. Or if we take the lowest amount as a guide we find  $\$15 \times \$337 = \$5,055$ , out of which to pay \$461.00.

We find in the *Herald* of the 9th inst. the following report:

"The third annual meeting of the Metropolitan Mutual Benefit Society was held at 215 St. James street at three o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mr. Robert Evans occupied the Chair, and there was a good attendance of the members present, amongst whom were noticed Dr. Leprohon, Dr. Wanless, Messrs. F. B. Wells, Calixte Naud, J. C. Dansereau, Joseph Dufresne, A. A. Dickson, A. Gosselin and others. Mr. A. W. Bisson acted as Secretary.

The Secretary read the annual report of the Directors, and also the annual statements, which showed that the progress of the Society during the year had been considerable. The Society now numbered 574 members, of which 469 are paying members, and 245 new members had been received during the past year. The sum of \$4,000 was expended in organizing the Society, but this had been reduced to \$612.23. The receipts during the year had been \$9,767, and the expenditure \$8,659, leaving a balance of \$1,107. During the year the Society paid to the widows and orphans of six deceased members \$2,779, the same members having collectively paid during their membership \$234.

The reports were adopted unanimously.

The following gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year:—Messrs. William Donahue, Robert Evans, John Wanless, M.D.; F. Vanasse, M.P.; F. B. Wells, J. C. Dansereau, A. B. de Montigny, C. H. Leprohon (Deputy Sheriff of Joliette), and C. J. C. Wurtele, Sorel."

This report enables us to make more plain the facts of this Society. Our readers will have noticed that at the end of 1880 there were 478 members, this report says there were 245 new members in 1881. This should make a total of 723 members at end of 1881. But of this number 6 have died, which should leave 717 members. Then there are 469 "paying" members, leaving 248 to account for. As

there are now 574 members, of whom 469 are "paying members," there must remain 105 non-paying members, and the remaining 143 persons must have ceased to be members.

The ratio of decay is shown by the reports, which show the persons who ceased to be paying members, viz., in 1880, 8, in 1881,  $143 + 105 = 248$ .

But as this institution claims to be a "Mutual Benefit Society," let us see *who is benefited by it*.

In these reports we find that the expenses of organization were \$4,000, of which

\$1,284	were paid in 1879
1,014	" " " 1880
1,090	" " " 1881
612	is not yet paid.

This amount is made up of:

Organization	.....	\$1,284
Re-organization	.....	2,716

The receipts and expenditures for 1881 are shown to have been as follows:

Total receipts as stated in report	.....	\$9,679	Paid to widows and orphans	.....	\$2,779
			For organization expenses	.....	1,090
			Balance (supposed to be cash on hand)	.....	1,107
			Amount not accounted for	.....	4,703
		\$9,679			\$9,679

If, as is natural to suppose, this \$4,703 represents the working expenses, then we find the paying members *unbenefited* \$8,572, and *benefited* \$2,779, at an expense of \$4,703 for working expenses and \$1,090 for organization expenses.

From this analysis of the reports of the Society it is not difficult to judge as to the advisability of becoming a member of it, or of its endorsement by the persons whose names appear in connection with it, as well as of the necessity for the supervision of such institutions by competent authorities.

We wish to impress upon our readers the fact that we think these gentlemen perfectly honest in their belief that the Society is really beneficial, and that, in consequence, we have allowed them to peruse this article before its publication, in order that we might present the facts in the case without prejudice.

They acknowledge that if a person once becoming a member were obliged to continue such until he fulfilled all the obligations of membership, his position would be a very onerous one. They do not seem to understand that these duties must be fulfilled by some one, and that they must, of necessity, be "very onerous" to those who are called upon to fulfill them. Unless they are so performed, those who do remain as members must necessarily fall short of the indemnity which they believed they were securing to their widows and orphans at their decease, the alternatives being oppressive assessments or failure to provide insurance.

If the persons connected with this Society were a lot of scoundrels, or if their recommendations and indorsements were bogus, they would do but little harm, but in this instance it is the character, standing and pretensions of these parties which lend weight to a delusive scheme, and will involve them in the curses of those who are deceived by them, if it does not indeed entail upon them even graver consequences; therefore, we trust to have the pleasure of recording that they have turned from the error of their ways and are doing that which is lawful and right whilst their sins are young upon them.