

Every one of the Ancient Order United Workmen lodges, Nos. 1 to 8, shows a decrease in membership. The greatest drop occurred in the neighboring State of Michigan with 5,413, and the next greatest, 3,649 at Buffalo, while Ontario also comes out 1,985 behind the previous year in present total membership. In the Ontario jurisdiction there were 1,924 who joined and 3,909 who dropped out. The death losses were \$868,079, an increase of \$125,279 above those of the previous year. It is not surprising, therefore, that the membership still continues to decline. The number on the rolls July 1, 1905, is only 37,849. This shows a weaker condition by 8,276 members compared with the beginning of last year. A similar number going out each eighteen months would only take six or seven years to bring the last lingering thousand or less into view.

But something of the same sort is going on in the several United States Workmen jurisdictions. In Pittsburg, Penn., near the fountain head, they have now only 11,344 members, where they numbered 16,355 two years previously. And the Supreme Lodge jurisdiction, embracing all the States, with its head office at Meadville, Penn., shows a membership at close of last year of 323,393 as compared with 451,510 two years previously. In other words, 128,117 less, though upwards of 60,000 are recorded as having joined in the two years. This shows nearly 200,000 of a shrinkage, at which rate about four years would bring the bottom of the basket into view. Two years ago \$110,019,000 of new certificates were taken, but last year only \$25,897,395, and no doubt 1905 will show a still less demand for admittance. "Experience" is likely to prove a "dear schoolmaster" to a very large number of people in such rule-o'-thumb life insurance societies.

#### A FORESTRY CONVENTION.

The question of forestry, and the best means of conserving Canada's timber resources which that implies, is one that grows in importance with every year; moreover, what is very satisfactory, this importance is rapidly becoming better recognized, both by prominent men in Canadian life and by the community at large. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is one of those who have been particularly impressed with the serious issues which depend on a due attention to the maintaining of forests. In fact, some time ago he suggested the calling of a convention of representative men in the chief industries affected, including lumbermen, miners, pulp men, farmers, and the railway companies. The idea was to obtain a complete survey of the various forestry interests of the country. This convention was to have been held some time during the summer now passing, but owing to the prolonged session of Parliament and to other causes it was decided to hold it on January 10th, 11th and 12th next in Ottawa. We hope to be able to present shortly a programme of the proceedings, which are sure to be extremely interesting.

#### THE LUMBER TRADE.

Several minor advances have been made during the last month in the local prices for pine lumber, and the position is still very strong. This is due as much to the highly prosperous state of the country as it is to the heavy demand for wood materials for building and general purposes.

The state of the trade in Quebec may be considered, generally speaking, as closely similar to that above-stated in Ontario.

In New Brunswick, according to the newspaper reports, the recent rains do not appear to have caused so much benefit in the way of bringing down the belated logs as was at first anticipated by lumbermen.

Canadian exports of timber to Great Britain during the month of August showed not much change compared with last year. The arrivals in Liverpool were 33,150 tons' register, as against 32,024 for the corresponding month last year. They met with a somewhat quiet market. Farnworth and Jardine, of Liverpool, in their last circular to hand, dated 1st inst., refer more particularly to Canadian woods as follows:—Of waney pine the import, with the exception of about 100 loads, went to Manchester direct, chiefly on contract. Stocks are ample, but there is little change in value to report. Square pine has not been imported; demand is limited, but stocks are light and prices steady. No arrivals of red pine have taken place, and the requirements are few. The import of oak logs consists of one small shipment of 3,000 cubic feet; there has been rather more enquiry, the stock is moderate, but values are unchanged. Elm has not been imported; values rule high, and stocks are fairly moderate. The arrivals of pine deals show an increase on the previous month, but less than corresponding period last season; the demand is inactive and the consumption only fair; stocks are increasing, but values are fairly steady. There is little enquiry for red pine deals.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Spruce and Pine Deals.—The arrivals to the Mersey during the past month have been 11,290 standards against 13,340 standards during the corresponding time last year. The deliveries have fully kept pace, and stocks, although still large, have been slightly reduced during the month. Values have slowly but steadily improved, and reports from the producing centres all indicate moderate shipments for the balance of the season. Pine deals are dull of sale. Birch logs have been imported moderately, stocks are light, and values are steady. Planks have arrived more freely, but have been in better request, and prices are firmer; stocks are fairly moderate.

British Columbian and Oregon Pine.—There have been no arrivals; the consumption has been fair, values are steady, but stocks are heavy.

#### THE NEW PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN.

(By Our Special Correspondent.)

My previous letters were devoted to describing in a brief way some of the more salient features of the inauguration ceremonies in the new province of Alberta. I was not present at those at Regina in connection with the similar birth of Saskatchewan. But I reached there shortly afterwards and was in a position to gather first-hand the impressions made on eye-witnesses. The ceremony seems to have passed over with *éclat*. At Regina there was a flocking of the people from many miles around to show their interest and pride in the inauguration and its attendant meaning as to their own sudden though deserved accession of importance. And in many other parts of the new province there was the same feeling of local pride as in Alberta, causing the inhabitants to feel just a little sore that it was not *their* part to form the capital.

Regina is a rapidly growing city, with some good buildings, fine churches, and ample educational facilities. The pure water-supply is another feature on which Regina is apt to dwell with pride. On all hands can be seen the signs of enlargement and improvement of the town. However, the chief part of this development, I believe, has been done during only the last two or three years. In fact, judging from what I heard and saw, I should say that the civic authorities of Regina have been, until lately at any rate, more on the look-out for big surpluses, at the expense of rapid development, than is usual in these far western towns and cities.