

been approved. The reasons why the Order should be acceptable were that it was founded on sound business principles, that it has great fraternal features, an enthusiastic membership, and the man who originated the Order remains at its head, and will bequeath to his fellowmen a movement that will be imperishable. The H. C. R. predicted that next year the increase would reach 5,000. In September last Illinois led all other jurisdictions in increase in new memberships.

S. C. R. Oronhyatekha was received with thunders of applause, and, after these had subsided, proceeded to deliver in his musical, finely modulated tones, which penetrated seemingly without effort into the farthest parts of the hall, an oration replete with facts, enlivened by frequent quiet sallies of wit, which kept the interest sustained to the close. After explaining about Forestry in general, he traced the history of the Supreme Court, I. O. F., as being first an American Order, started in June, 1874, and for seven years it was not managed with success, but when the governing power was transferred to Canada in 1881, it began to prosper and has continued to ever since uninterrupted. It is now an international order, the majority of the High Courts being in the United States. In 1831, when the Order was recognized in Canada, there was a membership of only 369 that responded to the call for the Widows and Orphans' Fund and to meet an indebtedness of \$4,000. Since then the Order has risen to over 101,000, and has paid over \$3,800,000 to the widows and orphans. It extends from Maine to California, from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia, and across the Atlantic to England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. All this has been done in a few years at an immense expenditure of money, and yet the Order has paid off all its indebtedness and has a splendid surplus of \$1,890,000, and will soon have \$2,000,000. There is now no question that their policies are as good as the notes of the Bank of England or the issues of the U. S. Government. (Applause.) For an expenditure of \$7 or \$13 one can secure insurance of from \$1,000 to \$5,000 at half the cost of the old line companies, and many other benefits also not incorporated in the policies of insurance companies. The members take a lively interest in each other, and are entitled to free medical treatment by the most skilled physicians, whose interest it is to see that they do not become ill. In 1830 the death-rate averaged 10.3 per 1,000, in 1891 it fell to 6.40, in 1892 it was 6.25, in 1893 it was 5.47. Such was the decrease that the members began to hope that in time there would be no deaths at all (Laughter.) In 1894 it was still 5.47. In 1895 it rose to 5.67, which is but one-third the average death-rate of the State of Illinois. Some of the special features of the Order are:

First, That all payments of dues cease at 70 years of age.

Second, That on total and permanent disability, no further tax was asked and half the insurance was paid down.

Third, Prompt payment of insurance by

return mail, although they could take thirty days' grace.

A recent case of a member who died in San Francisco showed that the I. O. F. was the first to pay, although its headquarters were 3,000 miles away, and some of the companies were local. They were able and willing to pay off every claim. The only remaining feature the Doctor would like to see added was to admit the ladies to the Order, and he expressed the hope that this would soon be done. (Applause.) After an eloquent peroration the speaker resumed his seat amid great applause.

The Webber quartette added greatly to the pleasure of the evening by their excellent selections.

After the meeting a grand banquet in honor of the S. C. R. came off at the Victoria Hotel, which was in all respects a brilliant and successful affair.

Bro. Wm. C. Schaefer, High Counselor, did the honors of the chair in his usual graceful manner.

The following impromptu acrostic to Oronhyatekha exactly describes the former situation in Illinois, now happily a thing of the past, and is an emanation from the fertile fancy of E. T. Richards, the High Secretary. It was read at the banquet amid applause:

ORONHYATEKHA.

Onward and upward your Order has flown
Remarkable its growth—How majestically grown

Oronhyatekha its pride, of you we are proud,
Notwithstanding the traitors, we greet you aloud,

Hurrah for our Chief. In house, street and hall

Your one word is better than the speeches of all.

As Chief, your great talents have forged us ahead

Tho' the whole of the enemy wished you were dead

Enraged at our existence, "No Licence" their cry,

Promo-matically shouting—by this they will die.

How vain were their ravings, injunctions and rant;

Away we go upward—prevent us they can't.

Forestry in Illinois has received an impetus from this gathering that will make itself pleasantly manifest in the next annual report.

Bro. W. B. Sanders, H. V. C. R., of Central Ontario, and Mayor of Stayner, was at headquarters a few days ago. He reported Forestry as booming in Simcoe County. Several new courts are in process of formation.

The *Northern Whig*, Belfast, gives an account of the funeral of Bro. John Denham, of Court Ballymena. Our late brother was extremely popular with all classes. As the funeral cortege passed through the town, places of business were closed. The deceased brother was also a member of the Masonic Order.