

It is needless to say that the Executive are prepared to defend their acts in these and every other matter upon which Bro. Simpson or any one else may choose to raise an issue.

It will not be necessary to say more at this time, than that it is the opinion of those who ought to know, that these and other proceedings which are being taken, or are threatened to be taken, are all with the view of trying, in that way, to defeat the I. O. F. legislation asked for at Ottawa.

We have direct information that a certain lawyer approached one of the Old Line Companies officers through their solicitor, to furnish \$1,000 and he would bring such suits against the I. O. F. as would prevent their getting any legislation. But he was simply laughed at for his pains, and the manager afterwards assured the Supreme Chief Ranger that not "one five cent" piece would be contributed by his company for any such nefarious purpose.

The fact, that everything that has been done by the Executive Council has already been approved by the Supreme Court itself, and that what is being done now, especially in connection with the Temple, is in accordance with the instructions of the Parliament of the I. O. F., and are in the best interests of the Order generally, but especially of the membership in Toronto, takes away all point from the complaints now made against the acts of the Supreme Court and of the Executive Council. Had there been any dishonesty shown or any mismanagement on the part of the Executive we have no doubt the Attorney-General would have given his consent to have his name used as plaintiff in the proposed action. But it was shown to him so clearly when the application was made to him that the Executive in all the matters complained of were not only acting honestly and in good faith, but under the instructions of the Supreme Body itself, that he very properly refused the application to use his name in the matter.

The Record for 1895.

The record which the I. O. F. has made for itself for the year 1895, is one of which every Forester may justly be proud.

The death rate, as shown from the figures received up to date, is again exceedingly low, being only 5.77 per 1,000, which is a tribute not only to the efficient work done by our Court Physicians and the Medical Board, but also to the energetic policy of the Executive

Council, especially in the direction of the organizing department.

During the year we received 28,953 applications for membership, of whom 25,951 were accepted by the Medical Board and 3,005 were rejected.

But it is in the finance department of the Order that we have the greatest cause for congratulations. In January, 1895, we had in the surplus fund the magnificent sum of \$1,187,225.11, which gave us \$16.91 *per capita* of the membership. During 1895, we added to our surplus no less a sum than \$373,148.35, thus making our surplus on the 1st January, 1896, \$1,560,373.46, of which no less than \$67,381.28 were added during the last two months of the year, viz.: November and December, 1895, which gave us a *per capita* of \$18.03, as against \$16.94 a year ago. This was done in the face of the fact that the interest on the accumulations was used in the organizing work, as authorized by the Supreme Court at its Chicago session, and reaffirmed at the London (England) session.

As the Executive Council has already resolved not to use the interest during 1896, we have no doubt but that the record for the present year will be better than any we have ever had before in respect of the surplus.

We trust that every Court in the Order will contribute its mite towards making 1896 the most prosperous year the I. O. F. has ever enjoyed.

The following Table A gives a birdseye view of the annual growth of our beloved Order:—

TABLE A.

SHOWING HOW THE I. O. F. HAS GROWN IN STRENGTH NUMERICALLY AS WELL AS FINANCIALLY EACH YEAR SINCE ITS INCORPORATION BY PARLIAMENT IN 1889.

	Mem- bership	Surplus.	Rate per Member.
May, 1889...	13,415	\$ 139,944.21	\$10.43
January, 1890...	17,026	188,110.86	11.04
January, 1891 . .	24,604	283,467.20	11.51
January, 1892 . .	32,03	408,798.18	12.65
January, 1893 . .	43,04	580,597.85	13.49
January, 1894 . .	53,184	854,857.89	15.76
January, 1895...	70,055	1,187,225.11	16.94
January, 1896...	86,521	1,560,373.46	18.03

Will you be one of the members who will help to make the Order over a *hundred thousand* strong on the 1st Jan., 1897, and with a surplus of over \$2,000,000? IT CAN BE DONE!

Whenever you see a shadow it means that there is light near by.