

THE ENDOWMENT RANK.

There is no field of Pythian endeavor where more good can be done than in that occupied by the Endowment Rank. Hence, it is a source of deep gratification when we notice, from time to time, the remarkable progress which is being made by the Endowment Rank, and the great practical work it is performing. When one realizes that this department is paying the beneficiaries of our deceased brethren over one million of dollars every year, and doing this surely and promptly, he cannot but commend the wisdom and foresight of those who inaugurated so grand a feature. Some dark and unseen hand, at the last convention of the Supreme Lodge, attempted the injury of this department of our Order, but it was foiled—it was paralyzed before its grasp had injured, or its influence affected the welfare of the Rank. Notwithstanding that attempt, the Endowment Rank has gone straight along, increasing as it goes, and doing good everywhere. It deserves to do well—it is the best institution of its kind: is managed by Pythian stalwarts, and presided over by one who knows no such word as "fail."

The following comes to us from the Secretary of the Board of Control, and tells a very flattering tale:

The progress of the Endowment Rank during the closing quarter of the year 1898, compared with the preceding quarter, shows a marked and healthy increase in the membership and endowment.

Since October 1st, 1898, eight, four local branches of the Rank have been established—a gain of eighteen over the preceding quarter, the domains leading in the number of new sections being Iowa, Maine, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Michigan.

Two thousand and sixty-five applicants have been added to the membership, the endowment issued amounting to two million eight hundred and ninety-seven thousand dollars—a gain over the quarter ending September 30th, 1898, of four hundred and thirty-seven in new members and

five hundred and fifty-seven thousand dollars in amount of endowment.

During the same period there has been a decrease of one hundred and thirty-three in the number of forfeitures and one hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars in the amount of endowment lapsed, indicating a decidedly improved condition.

While many fraternal societies during the past year have suffered actual decline, both in number of membership and amount of insurance, the Endowment Rank has from month to month made satisfactory gains in both factors, with most gratifying results at the close of the year.

As an evidence of the labors accomplished, since January 1st, 1898, to the close of December, 1898, three hundred and forty seven new sections were organized, eight thousand four hundred and twenty members admitted and twelve million, forty-one thousand dollars endowment written.

The death claims adjusted and paid during the year aggregate one million one hundred and fifty-one thousand dollars, and the total sum paid beneficiaries to date has reached thirteen million twenty-four thousand dollars.

At the beginning of the year three thousand six hundred sections are in active operation, covering every state and territory in the Union, the Canadian Provinces and Hawaiian Islands.

The membership approximates fifty-five thousand, the total insurance in force one hundred million one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, and the investments and cash on hand four hundred and eighty-three thousand five hundred and twenty dollars.

With an efficient corps of organizers in the field and the unqualified endorsement given the Endowment Rank in many domains by Grand Lodge officers, district deputies and others, together with the able assistance rendered by these brethren, the Board of Control believe that the year 1899 will prove for the insurance branch of the Order one of unusual interest and activity, the result of which it is hoped will surpass by far that of the year 1898.

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