

and disbursements for ordinary purposes for the fiscal year named:

1893—Receipts	\$ 94,109 69
1894—Receipts	101,136 96
1895—Receipts	88,330 50
1896—Receipts	66,210 72
1897—Receipts	42,859 82
1898—Receipts	37,716 17
1893—Disbursements	\$ 58,690 00
1894—Disbursements	63,415 46
1895—Disbursements	61,874 43
1896—Disbursements	50,766 93
1897—Disbursements	39,964 43
1898—Disbursements	38,736 47

From the above tables the conclusion to be drawn is inescapable—it is that, while our receipts have been steadily decreasing, our disbursements have not, as has been persistently asserted, been increasing. On the contrary, as compared with the total disbursements for all purposes for the two fiscal years ending March 31, 1894, the total disbursements for all purposes for the two fiscal years ending March 31, 1898, were 30 per cent. less; or to compare single years in which no convention of the Supreme Lodge was held, the total disbursements for the year ending March 31, 1898, were forty and a half per cent. less than the total disbursements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1894. Notwithstanding these facts, unscrupulous persons have continued to declaim against the "extravagance of the Supreme Lodge," and vehemently to assert that, while our revenues are decreasing, our expenditures are growing larger from year to year; and there are doubtless many honest and well-meaning members of the rank and file who actually believe these assertions to be true.

The question naturally suggests itself, what is the cause of the continuous and rapid decrease of our cash receipts. Those of you who are familiar with our system of revenue know that the bulk of our receipts comes from the sale of supplies. In proportion as our sales fall off, our revenue must inevitably decrease. With what alarming rapidity this has taken place, the appended table discloses:

SALE OF SUPPLIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31—

1893	\$83,675 42
1894	69,849 98
1895	75,569 19
1896	51,234 96
1897	35,406 76
1898	30,594 73

The figures given above make manifest the stupendous fact that, within six years, our total sales of supplies have decreased sixty-three and a half per cent. Of the fifty-four grand domains, only two—and they are comparatively small—bought as much in 1898 as they bought in 1893. In the larger grand domains—those which have been our best customers heretofore—the decrease has been enormous. Fifteen of these, whose purchases in 1893 aggregated \$58,302.74—considerably more than half the total amount sold—bought in 1898 an aggregate of \$18,294.57. The decrease in each of these in five years has been as follows: Minnesota, 85 per cent.; Kansas, 84; Missouri, 81; Tennessee, 80;

Colorado, 78 1-2; California, 73; Iowa, 68 3-4; Illinois, 68 1-2; Texas, 66 1-2; Indiana, 65 1-2; Ohio, 64; New York, 59 1-2; Pennsylvania, 58 1-2; Alabama, 54 1-4; Massachusetts, 35 1-2.

The foregoing figures are submitted for careful, intelligent and unprejudiced scrutiny and criticism. When this shall have been applied, it is confidently believed that every member of this body who really wishes to know the truth, and who sincerely desires to be just, not only to the Supreme Lodge, but to those to whom it has confided the management of its finances will necessarily reach the conclusion that these officers have not been unfaithful to their trust. Your revenue has not been wasted; the source from which the greater portion of it has been wont to flow has simply begun to go dry.

The report of Bro. White clearly demonstrates the fact that the present low condition of the Supreme Lodge exchequer is due to the immense falling off of the receipts from the sale of supplies.

The report of the Supreme Master of the Exchequer, Thos. D. Mears, is complete, showing aggregate receipts from April 1st, 1896, to 1898, \$116,473.28, and disbursements for the same period \$107,367.25, leaving a cash balance of \$9,106.03.

Bro. Mears recommends that the law in force prior to 1894, requiring the S. M. of E. to furnish to each member of the Supreme Lodge quarterly statements of the receipts and disbursements of his office, become again in full effect. In this we heartily agree with him.

UNIFORM RANK.

The report of Major-General Carnahan is a very lengthy document, and as it is printed under separate cover and distributed to each division, we deem it unnecessary to make any comment on same. We are pleased, however, to report the adoption of the New Ritual for that rank. We have personally witnessed the work performed, and have no hesitation in pronouncing it a decided improvement, and as there will be no extra cost in connection with the compliance of the same, we trust that it will be instrumental in renewing interest and largely increasing the membership of this important rank of the Order.

The parade by the Uniform Rank and subordinate lodge members, was indeed a pleasing spectacle. Thousands of brave Sir Knights, with waving plumes and glittering swords, marched past the reviewing stand, saluting the Commander in Chief of this Grand Pythian army, followed by gaily and neatly dressed members of subordinate lodges, whose uniform appearance called forth continuous applause along the line. For over one hour and a half this delightful scene greeted the eye associated with it. The beautiful music from the many military and civic bands was enough to waken our hearts and make us all feel proud that we could claim a membership in this great Order of Knights of Pythias.

ENDOWMENT RANK.

The report of the Board of Control, a voluminous work, embracing all the business transactions of this great insurance organization for the past two years, is entirely too heavy to at-