

7th, but we are quite prepared to hear that the Londonderry Works are being conducted under conditions favorable to an increased output of iron at economical figures.

Of the Nova Scotia Steel and Forge Company we have published reports from time to time. It has made decided progress since its consolidation, and is now a very large and important industry. And why should it not be so, with beds of hematite ore in Pictou county running from 40 to 50 per cent. metallic iron, and with large deposits of limonite ore? Whether the development of the iron-smelting industry in Ontario be near or not, in point of time, it is so far satisfactory to know that people are not asleep with respect to iron production in Nova Scotia.

THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS.

A few weeks ago, in the issue for June 6th, we called attention to the rapid decrease just then taking place in the funds of this Order, from unexpectedly heavy death losses falling upon it during the early months of this year. Also to the impossibility of its being able to fulfil the will-o'-the-wisp expectations held out to its members by its Supreme Chief Ranger, Dr. Oronhyatekha. The sharp contrast between the first four months of last year and this year was shown by the following table, relative to the Reserve Fund:—

Month.	1889.	1890.
February 1st	\$121,893	\$192,236
March 1st	129,891	190,406
April 1st	133,184	184,879
May 1st	139,944	186,490
Increase	\$18,051	
Decrease		\$5,746

In the July number of the *Independent Forester* the Supreme Chief breaks out into a spasm of vituperation of THE MONETARY TIMES, calling this journal by various delightful names, such as "paid actor," "idiot," "fool," etc., as if there were some heavy argument in such epithets, or as if they demonstrated that the position taken by our article was unsound, or that we had quoted figures wrongly. After venting his spleen, and throwing in *gratis* some anonymous quotations from an unmentioned "ably conducted journal published in New York," the writer proceeds to fill up eight columns of his journal with what is largely a reprint of what we replied to and demolished many moons ago, respecting "interest" and "lapses." The coolness with which these old stock arguments are served up again—"cauld kale het again," as the old Scotchman used to say—to the new members, as if they had not already been fully disposed of, would be surprising if done now for the first time. But we have had frequent occasion to complain of such unfairness. It is not so very long since we pointed out the error of using the quotation, "In ten years the I. O. F. will have a stiff annual deficit to meet," as if we had applied these words to the whole order. They were used only in relation to members who had been ten years or more on the rolls. Take those who joined in 1889, and what we demonstrated was that in ten years (unless the mortality tables are all wrong) there will be a "stiff

annual deficit" between the contributions of those 1889 members and the death losses to be paid on their account, in 1899 and thereafter. And yet the Supreme Chief is now guilty of quoting and using that expression over again for the fourth and fifth time, as if it had been applied not to a certain class of members ten years old, but to all members. Such a method of controversy we refrain from characterizing.

We cheerfully accept the doctor's assurance that it was "owing to La Grippe that the surplus did not increase, as was naturally to be expected, in the months of February, March and April of this year," and that "this drain on the funds was an extraordinary one," and that "the whole of the death losses were promptly paid without calling for a single extra assessment," and that the surplus on July 1st was \$204,814, or "an increase of \$35,935 within three months." Also, that the Ancient Order United Workmen has been compelled to call for double assessments for "March, April and June," instead of the "usual single assessments."

Here we have the acknowledgment made, or at least hinted at, that extra assessments are to be a feature in the future operations of the I. O. F., but under what circumstances, whether before or after the little reserve of \$10 per member is used up, no intimation is given. That they will be needed is made very plain from the history of other similar orders, such for instance as the American Legion of Honor, now in its thirteenth year, with 62,457 members on the roll, whose assessments, apart from dues, cost its members, as shown in our last issue, page 165, as follows:

FIRST 4 YEARS.	
1878	\$ 0.00 per \$1000
1879	2.00 " "
1880	5.00 " "
1881	11.00 " "

LAST 4 YEARS.	
1886	\$18.00 per \$1000
1887	21.00 " "
1888	24.00 " "
1889	24.00 " "

Or we may instance the still larger and more successful order, the Knights of Honor, which has now 113,934 members, whose record is:

FIRST 4 YEARS.	
1875	\$ 2.41 per \$1000
1886	5.45 " "
1877	3.86 " "
1878	11.16 " "

LAST 4 YEARS.	
1886	\$12.17 per \$1000
1887	12.88 " "
1888	13.58 " "
1889	12.90 " "

And a similar showing is made if we take the same society by sections of States. Instance the large States of Massachusetts and Illinois, with their 10,535, and 6,214 members, respectively, the two States combined having nearly the same membership as the I. O. F. had at the close of last year. But the Knights are now in their sixteenth year, and the Foresters in their tenth:

FIRST 4 YEARS.	
1875	\$2.18 per \$1000
1876	7.26 " "
1877	1.98 " "
1878	5.91 " "

LAST 4 YEARS.

1886	\$ 9.23 per \$1000
1887	11.72 " "
1888	10.56 " "
1889	12.28 " "

And the experience of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association, of New York, is precisely the same, so far as it goes. We quote all the following figures, except for 1889, from one of its own flaming advertisements:

FIRST 4 YEARS.

1881	\$ 0.00 per \$1000
1882	0.97 " "
1883	4.76 " "
1884	5.61 " "

LAST 4 YEARS.

1886	\$ 7.65 per \$1000
1887	8.81 " "
1888	9.37 " "
1889	10.37 " "

Why do these tables so uniformly show the assessments running doubly as high now as they did during the first four or five years? The answer is: 1st, At that time all the members were, as most of Dr. Oronhyatekha's now are, within five years from the medical officers' hands; 2nd, None were then over 50 years of age, while now some are nearing 70 years; 3rd, Few lapses had then taken place, but there has since been time for a sifting-out of young and healthy lives, this going on for fifteen years, in some cases, with consequent deterioration as to the residue; and lastly, the new members coming in do not now bear so large a proportion to the old as they did in the earlier half of each society's history. In 1883 the Mutual Reserve increased its total insurance in force by 80 per cent. in that one year, but in 1887 by less than five per cent., and in 1889 by less than eight per cent.

Comfort is drawn by the Supreme Chief from the report of the Superintendent of Insurance at Ottawa, showing the "actual mortality among insured lives in Canada as accurately as can be gathered from the returns of the companies" to have been:—

In 1885	\$10.01 per \$1,000
" 1886	8.65 " "
" 1887	8.95 " "
" 1888	9.49 " "
" 1889	9.08 " "

Such figures would mislead no one if the context were given showing whence they are derived. Life insurance has been booming in Canada during the past five years. In 1884 the whole amount of life policies in force in the Dominion was \$135,453,726. The new policies issued since then foot up \$186,128,112.

Now, when it is considered that the death-loss during the first year after entry is seldom above \$4.00 or \$5.00 per \$1,000, it can easily be seen what an effect so large an influx of new business must have in reducing the general average rate. If only a moderate amount of new insurances were coming in, the rate in 1889 would no doubt have been nearly double as high. If the I.O.F. doubles its membership every two years, its rate of death loss ought not to increase very much for some time yet. But to say that the rate will not increase when a stand-still point in membership is reached, and many members are above 60 years of age, is simply to write one's self down a fool. But such is the doctrine by which the Supreme Chief of the Order endeavors