

from the courts situated in British territory but also from a large number of Courts situated in the United States. Nor should we think it necessary to notice any adverse criticism, were it not that one editor from the west, himself a Forester, has accused us of "devoting editorial space, supposed to deal with lodge matters, to promoting the British contention in South Africa."

This is an error on the part of the Western editor, an error not of the heart but of the lips. The INDEPENDENT FORESTER has not in its editorial columns defended or promoted either the

Cuban War
or the War in the Philippines
or the War in South Africa.

Neither have we deemed it necessary in the editorial columns to discuss the merits, the rights and wrongs, causes, or results; or to praise or blame the tactics, munitions or commissariat of the combatants. It is true that in our columns of lodge news we have, through our desire to give a true picture of what the brethren are doing, inserted reports of Courts that bade God Speed to Brethren going to America's wars and to England's wars and of Courts that have given a royal welcome to the soldiers of their country returning from Cuba and the Philippines.

But in all this there has been no expression of our own editorial theories as to the justice or expediency of any of these wars. Why?

Simply because the action of the I.O.F. Executive Council has not been based on principles of politics but on something higher and more enduring,—on fraternal sympathy. When we see numbers of our young men going forth to take the unequal chances of battle it is sufficient for us to know that they believe their cause is a just one, and that our help is needed and acceptable. To the historian we leave the task of justifying these wars, or of forming public opinion on their merits. In the meantime it contents us to know that the American is fighting, and the Britisher is fighting, each for his country's interests; and our heart goes out to our Forestric brethren in the field. We may admire the elusive resilience of the Filipino or the stubborn valor of the Boer, but our sympathy and aid go for the men of our mother tongue and the men who have taken the obligations of L., B. and C.

A Mystery—\$264 Returned for Each \$100 Paid.

On March 3, 1887, there appeared in *The Independent* an advertisement of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, which, among other things, contained a table showing the total amount which it paid in death claims and the net amount of cash paid by the insured each month in 1886.

It appears from this table that the Mutual Life returned \$264 for each \$100 it received in prem-

iums on its policies which became claims by death in 1886.

The following is a copy of the table:—

\$264 Returned for Each \$100 Received.

Claims paid in 1886 by the Mutual Life.	Total Claims paid by the Company.	Net Amount of Cash paid by the Insured.	Amount Returned in excess of Cash paid by the Insured.	Amount Returned by the Company for each \$100 received.
January.	\$467,579 68	\$188,377 59	\$279,202 09	\$248
Feb.	313,047 05	115,999 61	197,047 44	270
March	472,924 24	168,854 01	304,070 23	280
April.	552,745 50	204,759 51	347,985 99	270
May.	421,193 73	152,820 68	268,373 05	276
June.	567,331 76	202,255 74	365,076 02	281
July.	458,524 24	155,893 62	302,630 62	212
August.	372,045 68	137,624 44	234,421 24	270
Sept.	328,939 45	131,999 39	196,940 06	249
October.	555,117 89	228,981 61	326,136 28	242
Nov.	341,628 04	113,767 53	227,860 51	300
Dec.	512,832 73	205,076 02	307,756 71	265
Totals	\$5,393,993 99	\$2,666,172 78	\$2,727,821 21	*\$264

*Average for twelve months.

In addition to the above table there was considerable reading matter, from which we make the following extract:

"As an evidence of the wise management and admirable investment of its funds, the following list of payments for death claims in 1886 has been published, showing what the cost of insurance is in this company. It will be seen that for every dollar paid by the insured to the Mutual Life, the company returned \$2.64 to the policy-holder. * * * * *

The average duration of these policies was 14.4 years, and thus it will be seen that the holders therefore received all premiums back, improved at twelve and one-half per cent. compound interest."

"It is unnecessary to remark that there is no other form of investment so profitable as this."

\$240 RETURNED FOR EACH \$100 PAID.

The following interesting table, published in the official organ of the Mutual Life, shows that for every \$100 paid in premiums by the insured the company returned \$240 to the representatives of deceased policy-holders:

"We have classified the claims paid by the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York during the month of September, 1898, according to occupations, and show the profits realized on the investments. The figures are arranged according to the amount of the claims paid:

Occupation.	Claims Paid.	Premiums Paid by Insured.	Sum Realized Over Cost.
Merchants.	\$ 217,241 50	\$ 111,865 70	\$ 131,375 80
Miscellaneous.	256,170 61	113,677 86	142,492 75
Manufacturers.	71,688 00	27,714 95	43,973 05
Farmers.	41,757 00	16,131 65	25,625 35
Druggists.	31,760 00	7,195 86	24,564 14
Physicians.	31,237 00	15,761 00	15,476 00
Lawyers.	22,547 00	8,345 10	14,201 90
Clergymen.	18,047 00	7,042 10	11,004 90
Bookkeepers.	17,193 33	5,467 05	11,726 28
Salesmen.	16,720 00	6,091 12	10,628 88
Bankers.	11,477 00	4,672 46	6,804 54
Teachers.	11,012 00	1,942 76	9,069 24
Brokers.	9,192 00	2,161 80	7,030 20
Real Estate.	7,441 00	3,122 18	4,318 82
U. S. Navy.	7,035 00	3,468 13	3,566 87
U. S. Army.	2,000 00	315 43	1,684 56
T t l.	\$ 707,038 44	\$ 352,777 40	\$ 354,261 04

"In every instance over 100 per cent. above the amount of premiums paid was realized. The above list does not include endowments or claims paid in foreign countries."—*Weekly Statement.*

The New York Life now publishes a list every month of death claims which it pays; also a