

first adopted was further modified, so as to make the loosely-managed grand lodges pay still heavier, and the scale was declared subject to other revisions every three years, such readjustment to be based upon each jurisdiction's actual losses for the preceding five years.

Ontario being regarded as one of the most careful, was compelled to pay its own way up to 20 assessments before it could call for outside assistance, but Illinois and Oregon were also thought to be pretty healthy places, and were to be granted relief when they had each made 21 calls of \$1 upon each of their own living members in payment of the \$2,000 death claim. Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky, on the other hand, having always had heavy death claims, and having been already several times relieved by contributions from other jurisdictions, were billeted for 26, 30, and 33 assessments respectively, from their own members, before their losses should overflow their bounds and trouble Ontario, New York, Michigan, Illinois, and other grand lodges.

Well, year after year the "relief calls" came along one every year, one every year, as regularly as clock-work. But the amount of the relief call soon began to attract attention, and now that No. 11 has made its appearance, the members stand aghast and are beginning to wonder where this thing is going to end. In former years it was only one, or two, or three States that accidentally, as it were, met with a bad run, and had to be helped. Now, however, for the year 1890, no fewer than eight States have over-run their allotment and are unitedly calling for the solid sum of \$413,794.16 in hard cash. Every Workman in good standing on Feb. 2nd, 1891, was required to pay \$1.70, to be forwarded to the Supreme Receiver, John A. Acker, Albany, N.Y., to be by him transmitted to the following suffering grand lodges:—

FROM RELIEF CALL NO. 11.

New York	\$138,586 00
Illinois	55,205 00
California	38,448 00
Pennsylvania	52,145 00
Oregon and Washington	23,045 00
Tennessee	30,978 00
Ohio	53,838 00
Kentucky	22,445 00

Like some city taxes, the call is levied in two instalments. Each member was to pay \$1 by the 28th February, 1891, and the remaining 70 cents by the 28th March instant, or stand suspended.

The aggregate to be paid by Ontario Workmen is quite a heavy item. The *Canadian Workman* says: "The relief call of \$1.70 per member will take fully \$40,000 from Ontario jurisdiction as her share of the \$413,794.16 to be raised. This sum," it says truly, "would make a nice beginning if it had gone to a reserve fund; but as it is, it simply goes to give insurance below cost to brothers who are quite able to pay their own assessments."

But if brethren are not to be helped when they have got into trouble from old age, where does the boasted fraternity come in? If the Ontario mouthpiece of the Order is going to kick about a little trifle of \$40,000, wanted by eight of the Ancient Old Fellows, what will he and the province

do when sixteen or eighteen out of the twenty-two grand lodges call for relief from the other four or five lodges, and it takes say \$4 or \$6 per member to meet it? This is just what must happen in a very few years from now. And a little later, all hands will be piped on deck to man the pumps, in the endeavor to keep the doomed vessel afloat a few years longer. Eventually she must go under, simply for want of a reserve fund having been provided with which to meet the heavier claims resulting from old age and lapse of young members. If the leaders, even now, were to form a reserve fund of say two million dollars, accumulating at compound interest, to provide for the last 2,000 deaths, it would be a step only second in importance to that other change so much more necessary, the adoption of a graded rate. Only \$8 would be needed from each member, payable in two years, to realize the \$2,000,000, and compound interest would in twenty years raise it to \$4,000,000. Such a provision would pay \$2,000 to each of 2,000 members, or \$1,000 each to 4,000 members. And it is quite possible that in twenty years there would be as many as four thousand who should bravely struggle on in spite of increasing assessments, if they had before them the prospect of having even \$1,000 assured to their heirs at death.

With the exception of call No. 10, the following statement gives a summary of the calls to date:—

Year.	No of Call.	Amount called for.	Ontario's portion.
1881.....	1.....	\$ 8,716 70	\$ 321 45
1882.....	2.....	50,645 00	2,408 00
1883.....	3.....	11,987 05	670 70
1884.....	4.....	57,647 73	3,409 35
1885.....	5.....	61,500 00	3,945 50
1886.....	6.....	78,266 40	5,000 00
1887.....	7.....	18,914 19	1,450 00
1888.....	8.....	105,014 00	10,000 00
1889.....	9.....	91,563 36	7,200 00
1890.....	10.....	?	?
1891.....	11.....	413,794 16	40,000 00

TORONTO WATER SUPPLY.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Hamilton, superintendent of the water-works department, has persuaded the water-works committee to abandon the idea of taking out the present four-million gallon pumping engine, and replacing it with a ten-million gallon one. At the meeting on Monday it was resolved, on motion of Ald. Leslie, to ask for \$120,000 for a building big enough for two engines, and the placing in it of one new engine, the cost to extend over two years. We trust that the council will adopt the resolution, and that no time be lost in letting the contract, so as to give the public the use of the new engine at the earliest possible moment.

The water now supplied in Toronto is said to be in a worse condition than it has ever been before. The analysis by Prof. Ellis is most alarming, and no wonder that Alderman Gillespie urged that vigorous action should at once be taken to improve the quality. Citizens should be careful in using it. Physicians strongly recommend the precaution of boiling before drinking.

—Mr. Plimsoll writes to the *New York Times*, calling attention to the antiquated

system of quarantine in vogue at that port. The doctors' visits are only provided for between gun fire at sunrise and the same signal at sunset. Steamers, therefore, arriving after the latter signal must remain at anchor in the Narrows until the following signal at sunrise, and, as the sun sets in midwinter at about 4.30, and rises about 7.30, it follows that a detention of about fifteen hours may ensue, and this, in the present age, Mr. Plimsoll characterizes as just as absurd as the ancient system of forty days detention. Medical science in the two continents, he says, advances side by side, and the cable places them in immediate communication, so that any disturbance in the sanitary condition of any part of one of the continents is at once communicated to the other, and therefore can be specially guarded against. The effect of this detention is vexing. The results, he finds, of this very costly system are most meagre, and the medical examination of even steerage passengers is performed in a very "perfunctory" manner. He denounces this stoppage of first-class steamers for a whole night, when they are as near to their destination as a Staten Island ferry boat, as absurd as would be the stoppage of trains at Yonkers because their travellers were from Montreal, San Francisco, or even New Orleans.

—By the Postal Subsidy Law just passed in the United States Congress, the Postmaster General is authorized to make contracts for carrying the mails for a term of not less than five years, nor more than ten years, at a minimum rate of speed. The vessels are to be American-built steamships, owned and officered by American citizens, and the crew is to be composed of American citizens in the following proportions: during the first two contract years, one-fourth; the next three, one-third, and the remaining time at least one-half. The compensation to be paid for mail service is as follows: first class, \$4 per mile; second class, \$2 per mile, by the shortest practicable route for each outward voyage; third class, \$1 per mile; fourth class, two-thirds of a dollar per mile for the number of miles required by the Post Office Department to be travelled on each outward voyage. It is understood that the mail service is to be distributed equitably among the Atlantic, Mexican Gulf and Pacific ports. This proposal has much the appearance of a bounty to owners of American vessels of moderate speed. Had Congress asked for tenders for carrying the mails at the lowest price on the fastest steamers, instead of fixing the rate per mile, it would have better served the public and possibly have saved considerable money.

The Newfoundland legislature assumes that the *modus vivendi* ceased with the year for which it was concluded. But later intelligence from Europe shows that an agreement has been reached, and that it will be submitted to the legislative authorities of France and England. Arbitration will be resorted to, and the *status quo* will be maintained in Newfoundland till the arbitrators give their decision.