

Neither of them is growing much in membership, but their members are annually growing thousands of years older, and the result of this cannot but be a heavy death-rate at an earlier period, and upon the older members, than in the case of a still rapidly growing society. The heavy mortality, and the consequent extra assessments—of which the older members of the Covenant Mutual, of Galesburg, Ill., are just now complaining so loudly—will both come along together among the Foresters in due time, only a little later. When they do come, they will find all the more victims to prey upon, because of the present rapid growth. It is better that those who hold certificates in such societies should get their eyes opened early to the uncertainty of the provision they are leaning upon, so that they may drop an anchor to windward in good season, or get off the ship before it is too late to find refuge elsewhere.

In confirmation of our statement that two of the above societies have been growing but slowly, and the other quite rapidly of late, we will give the membership of each on the 1st of January for a few years past, and at latest date:—

Society.	1893.	1894.	1895.	Latest.
I. O. Foresters.....	43,024	54,484	70,055	73,836
United Workmen....	25,738	26,678	26,485	26,443
Royal Templars....	4,068	4,826	5,457	5,570

It will be seen that the A.O.U.W. is already on the down grade in Ontario, as it has for some time been in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin. New members are hard to get once the assessments begin to increase, and especially so when relief calls come along with unexpected regularity and large dimensions. And in the case of the Royal Templars, it is almost a toss-up as to whether they are going to get much further up the hill of difficulty, in the direction of increased membership. During 1893 the increase was 758. In the following year only 631 were added, despite strenuous efforts in the shape of prizes and Bro. W. Bell's "missionary meandering;" and for the first four months of this year the score is only a meagre 113, or at the rate of 339 per annum. And now the inevitable is appearing, in the shape of heavier death claims and shrinkage in the surplus funds. The following shows the condition of the life insurance branch of the Order at recent dates:—

Date.	Members.	Monthly Inc.	Surplus Fund.
August, 1894.....	5,257	\$5,472	\$72,533
October, 1894.....	5,231	4,965	68,498
January, 1895.....	5,227	5,761	66,691
May, 1895.....	5,570	5,556	59,775

From August to May—nine months—an increase in members of 313, an increased income of \$84, and a depleted surplus fund, from heavy mortality, of no less than \$12,578. It would only need a continuance on that line for four or five more periods of nine months to exhaust the poor little fund. It would require an assessment of \$3 per member, considering the lapses it would produce, to bring the fund back to where it was nine months ago. It was then \$14 per head, whereas it is now but little above \$10, and still diminishing. And we understand the American branch of the Order, whose headquarters are at Buffalo, is not succeeding any better. In fact the assessment societies are now so numerous, that it is becoming more and more difficult for any one of them to find a town or village which has not already several lodges, or councils, or divisions, or courts in operation, and if a new one crowds in the other societies suffer loss thereby, especially such as are obliged to levy extra assessments. And in many instances the people are finding out the falsity of the basis of all such counterfeits, as compared with insurance that insures, and cannot longer be induced to waste more good money in entrance fees, relief calls, and monthly rates. Those who do so will meet with inevitable disappointment, if their names should not soon be found upon the monthly mortality list.

TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

Both imports and exports were larger at the port of Toronto in May last than in the previous May, goods to the value of \$1,443,457 having been brought in, and \$335,820 worth shipped out. In May, 1894, the corresponding figures were \$1,402,423 and \$264,928. The increased imports are principally under the head of dry goods; metals show a decline. Leather, drugs and paints are the only other main items showing an increase; books, paper, envelopes, glassware, jewellery, earthen and chinaware exhibit a decreased import. We subjoin a list:

IMPORTS.		
	May, 1895.	May, 1894.
Brass and manufactures of.....	\$ 5,861	\$ 4,916
Copper ".....	778	707
Iron and steel ".....	107,082	123,365
Lead ".....	2,681	7,136
Metals and comp.....	7,969	5,784
Total metal goods.....	\$124,371	\$141,908
Cotton, and manufactures of.....	\$114,942	\$71,024
Fancy goods and laces.....	33,510	42,969
Hats, caps and bonnets.....	25,264	22,834
Silk, and manufactures of.....	72,083	51,085
Woolen manufactures.....	104,094	89,934
Total dry goods.....	\$349,893	\$277,846
Books, pamphlets, &c.....	20,776	23,303
Drugs and medicines, N.E.S.....	18,860	17,005
Earthen, stone and chinaware.....	16,542	21,526
Fruits, dried and green, and nuts.....	18,181	20,275
Glassware and window glass.....	20,634	30,480
Jewellery and watches.....	15,557	18,511
Leather and m'frs of.....	18,920	16,431
Musical instruments.....	10,295	10,363
Paints and colors.....	12,813	10,124
Paper and manufactures of.....	29,470	33,949
Spirits and wines.....	7,966	6,510
Wood and manufactures of.....	10,468	19,153

Turning to exports of Canadian produce, which are small for the month, we find an increase in horses, wool, dead meats, lumber, field products and manufactures shipped:

EXPORTS OF CANADIAN PRODUCE.		
Produce of	May, 1895.	May, 1894.
The Mine.....	\$ 55	\$ 90
" Fisheries.....		
" Forest.....	16,408	14,427
" Field.....	50,205	36,355
Animals, and their produce.....	106,956	92,221
Manufactures.....	122,844	81,767
Miscellaneous.....		107
Total.....	\$296,468	\$224,967

Among free goods, such as raw materials for manufactures and the like, there is a very marked increase last month in hides and skins, and raw cotton, and an increase, less pronounced, in dyes and chemicals, wool and tea. On the other hand, we find a decline in imports of coal, coffee, and free metal goods. Only \$71,938 worth of anthracite coal came in, against \$120,218 worth in May, 1894. The total of free goods is \$428,000 as compared with \$400,000 in the previous May. But only \$15,476 worth of coin and bullion was brought in last month, against \$62,109 in May, 1894.

THE WOOL CLIP OF 1895.

The competition of Toronto merchants to secure the first parcels of the new wool clip, and the excessive prices offered, is no longer a feature of the local market merely. The fever has extended and the merchants and wool growers of Western Ontario all show extravagant ideas as to the future of the market. One would-be seller writes to a Toronto dealer: "Have some 30,000 lbs. of fleece wool to offer you; will expect: merchantable, 22c.; rejects, 18c.; unwashed, 13c. Confirm quick." Another offers "25,000 lbs. of combing and clothing at 25c. Will expect 16c. for rejects." It is needless to say that these bargains failed to tempt a buyer, although a close inspection of the week's transactions reveals values paid almost as high. The nominal market quotations are: merchantable fleece, 20c.; rejects, 16c.; unwashed, 12c.; in many cases, however, spirited bidding has led to higher prices.

Nothing has occurred to alter our views that dealers are paying