

Lincoln, Neb., law partner of William J. Bryan. Mr. Talbot represented the Modern Woodmen of America. There were many women among the delegates representing lady societies and the auxiliaries to some of the prominent fraternal orders.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—Pres., Oronhyatekha, M.D. of Toronto, I.O.F.; Vice Pres., Chas. E. Bonnell, of Chicago, Royal League; Secretary, M. W. Sackett, of Meadville, Pa., A.O.U.W.; Chap., Rev. Saml. P. Lacey, of Newark, N.J., Knights and Ladies of the Golden Star.

Among the important business transacted was the consideration of the report of the Committee on rates, laid over from the last session of the congress. The scale of rates proposed by the Committee was unanimously recommended to all the members of the Congress for adoption.

A pleasing feature of the visit to the "Windy City" was a moonlight excursion given on the steamer City of Chicago in honor of Dr. Oronhyatekha, and the other Supreme Officers of the Order by the Illinois branch Supreme Court. An elaborate musical programme formed a part of the pleasures of the excursion, the band of the Second regiment, that played at the evacuation ceremonies and the raising of the Stars and Stripes at Havana, Cuba, giving a concert in which were repeated the musical numbers played by it on that historic occasion. Everybody said it was a most enjoyable excursion.

The officers of the Illinois branch Supreme Court, who played the part of hosts are: A. E. Stevenson, High Chief Ranger; Edward T. Richards, High Secretary; William C. Schaefer, High Counsellor, and Florence Donohue, High Treasurer.

The local entertainment committee treated all the delegates of the Congress to a Tally-ho ride through the city parks and boulevards, on Wednesday evening. We clip the following pen picture of the new President of the Congress from the *Daily Inter-Ocean*, of Aug. 23rd:

"Dr. Oronhyatekha, a full blooded Mohawk Indian, was the central figure of yesterday's sessions of the National Fraternal Congress at the Auditorium. He is the Supreme Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters and Vice-President of the Congress.

Seated at the right of President D. E. Stevens Dr. Oronhyatekha presented a striking appearance, and was the focus of many curious eyes. Not that his appearance is so markedly different in character from that of his white brothers, for he was dressed in the most modern style, but his massive head and large frame distinguished him from the others, and his name was on every tongue, for a lively canvass was going on to elect him President of the Congress for the coming year at the election, which will probably be held to-day.

Dr. Oronhyatekha came into prominence through his remarkable record in building up the Independent Order of Foresters. When he took the management of the Order in 1881, there was not a dollar in the treasury, and the results of his work are represented by a membership of 150,000 and a surplus of over \$3,500,000."

Extracts from the Reports.

(From the Report of the Committee on Statistics.)

MEMBERSHIP.

The forty-six orders reporting to the Congress their condition and work for the year 1898 had

1,859,739 benefit members at the beginning of that year. There were 404,861 benefit members admitted during the year. And the benefit membership at the close of 1898 was 2,062,673. These same orders had 122,613 social members, making their combined membership 2,185,286 at the close of 1898. The net increase in benefit members for 1898 was 202,364, as compared with 170,266 for 1897. The percentage of new members for 1898 was 21.76, as compared with 21.02 for 1897. And the percentage of net gain was 10.88, as compared with 9.54 for 1897. Only five orders show a net increase of more than 10,000, and these five have a combined net increase of 153,749, or more than 76 per cent of the entire net increase for the year, while their benefit membership at the close of the year was only 53 per cent of the whole. In other words, orders with 58 per cent of the membership make 76 per cent of the net gain for the year, while those with 42 per cent of the membership make only 24 per cent of the net gain.

The social membership which is confined to eighteen orders increased 31,224 for the year, making the total social membership at close of 1898 122,613. The total net increase in membership for the year, both benefit and social members, was 233,588, which is 22,143 greater than the net increase for 1897.

PROTECTION.

The protection represented by the certificates in force at the beginning of 1898 amounted to \$3,477,238,657. The new certificates issued amounted to \$579,815,175. The amount terminated was \$347,028,575, leaving the amount in force at close of that year \$3,260,261,300, a net increase over amount shown at close of 1897 of \$186,468,277. The average amount of each certificate in force is now \$1,755, as compared with \$1,702 in last report.

COST OF PROTECTION.

The benefits distributed during 1898 amounted to \$32,213,868.02, making the average annual cost per member \$16.42, or about \$9.5 per \$1,000 of protection. This is a reduction of about 85 cents per \$1,000 as compared with 1897. There is also a reduction in the benefits paid of nearly \$2,000,000, accounted for by the absence of a few of those orders which were in last year's report and not in this. Two of the orders not reporting now paid over \$3,000,000 in benefits and were included in last report.

The cost of protection as compared with that of 1897 is less, but when considered relatively there has been little if any change.

MORTALITY.

During 1898 there was an average benefit membership of 1,961,206. The total number of deaths reported is 16,978, showing the average death rate for the year to have been 8.65, as compared with 9.32 for the previous year. On the face of this showing it would appear that there had been a lower death rate than in 1897, but this is accounted for by the absence of a few that were included last year where the death rate was very high and the admission of two new ones where the death rate is below the average. The death rate among the orders that reported both in 1897 and 1898 was as follows: In 1897 it was 8.87; for 1898 it was 8.89—practically the same both years. In this connection your Committee calls attention to Table D, where the death rate of 21 of the older orders and all the large ones is compared year by year for