

ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen, whose membership has become widely extended, and whose boast has been that it furnishes "insurance at cost" on the assessment plan, begins to find that the cost is getting to be pretty steep. Each State or Province is organized under the supervision of a "grand lodge" subordinate to the supreme lodge. Assessments of members are to be made by each grand lodge up to a certain number annually, and if when the limit is reached the amount realized is inadequate to pay all claims, a "relief call" is made by the supreme body, apportioned among the more fortunate grand lodges, to make up the deficit. During the past ten years a number of these relief calls have been made, and every year they have increased. For some time past the deaths in the older grand lodges have exceeded the yield from the maximum number of assessments, though in the Northern States from 21 to 23 assessments annually and in the South 30 to 33 must be made before they are entitled to help from the order at large under a relief call. The grand lodge of Ontario being among the younger bodies, and hence more fortunate in the death rate experience, has been among those called upon to contribute to this relief call for a number of years, its quota increasing from \$321 in 1881 to \$37,415 in 1891. The following will show the portion which Ontario has been called on to contribute to help out the deficit elsewhere for the years named:—

Year.	Total called for	Ontario's portion.	Year.	Total called for	Ontario's portion.
1881	\$ 8,717	\$321	1886	\$8,266	\$5,000
1882	50,645	2,408	1887	18,914	1,450
1883	11,957	671	1888	105,014	10,000
1884	57,648	3,409	1889	91,563	7,200
1885	61,500	3,945	1890	30,000	2,800
			1891	413,794	37,415

The shortage to be made up is found in the nine grand lodges following all of which assessed up to their limit and still lacked the amount given in each case.

Grand Lodge.	Assessments made by each.	Shortage called for.
New York.....	23	\$138,586
Illinois.....	21	55,205
California.....	24	38,448
Pennsylvania.....	23	52,145
Oregon and Washington...	21	23,045
Tennessee.....	30	30,978
Ohio.....	20	53,838
Kentucky.....	33	22,445

Total shortage..... \$414,690

It will be seen that although these nine grand lodges assessed up to the full limit, which it was fondly presumed would rarely if ever be reached, yet the deaths in a single year already exceed the supposed ample provision by nearly half a million dollars. Just what will take place when *all* the grand lodges, as they get older, are obliged to assess up to their limit we are not informed by these credulous disciples of "cheap insurance;" but intelligent men at all familiar with the history and the fundamental principles of life insurance know exactly what will happen, viz.: the order will simply collapse by wholesale dropping out of the healthy and younger membership. Meanwhile there is ominous grumbling among the Ontario membership over the increasing relief calls.

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

We present with pleasure a synopsis on another page of the business and resources of the Standard Life Co. of Edinburgh. We say of Edinburgh, because that staunch old city is its birthplace and home, but in reality the Standard is cosmopolitan, its reputation world-wide, and its far-reaching benefits experienced on three continents. Wherever the company is known it is believed in, and with good reason, for through many years of experience—more than threescore—it has established a reputation for conscientious and equitable dealing with its patrons, for a spirit of enterprise, and for the adoption of such liberal plans and practices as have been found to be within the limits of safety.

A glance at the annual statement for 1890 shows what the public looked for with confidence, viz.:—a steady increase in all the elements of strength and a healthy gain in new business. The total amount of new assurances accepted during the year was \$7,861,240 (\$5 equivalent to £1) represented by 3,030 policies, a gain over the previous year of almost an even million dollars of assurance. The net income from premiums was \$3,437,744, from annuities \$526,635, and from interest, etc., \$1,526,587, making the total income for the year \$5,490,970. The total disbursements were \$4,340,705, leaving a balance of \$1,150,165. After reducing this amount by the sum of \$387,470 for loss and depreciation on properties and securities during the preceding five years, the company was still enabled to augment its funds by \$762,690, bringing the total assets at the close of the year on November 15, 1890, up to \$37,443,125, which will justly be regarded as an amount expressive of abundant resources and gratifying solidity.

The total assurance in force reported at the above date was \$107,728,245, of which \$6,848,635 was re-insured with other offices. The total surplus for the past five years is stated at "\$3,230,350, from which, after providing for the intermediate bonus already paid between 1885-90, and setting aside a further sum of \$194,666 towards the reserve fund, which would now amount to \$389,383, a bonus was declared, giving revisionary additions to the aggregate amount of \$4,934,800."

The present excellent condition of the Standard is the result of capable management for many years and not of good luck nor of "looming" methods. It is, rather, a growth promoted by safe well considered methods, uniform painstaking and judicious enterprise, conducted by men of ability, character and experience. Conspicuous among the men to whom the company owes its prosperity may be named Mr. W. M. Ramsay of this city, manager for the Dominion, who is widely known and as widely admitted to be a leader among leaders, and not only a most successful life assurance manager, but a courteous gentleman, a loyal friend and a valuable citizen. The company is strongly entrenched in the confidence of the people of Canada, among whom it has invested over \$6,000,000 of its funds, and where its future may be safely predicted as one of increasing prosperity.