

Let us next turn to the experience of one or two of the great American companies which are now nearly half a century old, and see what evidence their experience affords upon this question. The Equitable Life, of New York, for the ten years ending with 1887 received in premiums \$106,252,130. While it paid for death losses during the same period \$32,670,051. So that this Company could have paid all its death losses, even if it had been collecting only one-third of its premium rates and still have had left a surplus of \$2,747,325. Take also the New York Life Insurance Company for the ten years ending with 1887, we find that its premium income was \$90,083,340, one-third of this amounts to \$30,029,780, while it paid for death losses during the same period only \$23,151,157, so that this Company if it had charged only one-third of its premium rates, would have had enough money to have paid all its death losses during the ten years and still have had left a surplus of

\$6,876,633.

Thus the experience of every live Insurance Company, whether old or young, contradicts absolutely the statements of the *Monetary Times*, and demonstrates by the inexorable logic of facts gathered from actual experience that the rates of insurance of the Foresters are ample for all time to come.

Suppose, now, we apply to the Canada Life the tests which the *Monetary Times* applies to the I. O. F. and to other Fraternal Benevolent Societies. The Canada Life admits applicants up to 65 years, so that we are below the mark, if anything, when we assume that the average age of its original policy-holders must have been as high as 35 years. "Now move the hand of time twice twenty years," and the policy holder of 35 years of age has become 75 years old. The American Experience Table tells us that the rate of mortality at that age is 94.3 in a thousand, while the Dominion Superintendent of Insurance informs us that the officers of the Canada Life report that the death rate in that Company, after 41 years, is only

8.9 in 1000,

instead of 94.3, called for by the inexorable hand of death. The same state of affairs is true of the other active Old Line Companies, viz., that the actual rate of mortality is away below that called for by the Experience Tables.

In his last report the Dominion Superintendent of Insurance states that "the death rate has been entirely re-calculated for the last four years," and "it is believed that the results arrived at represent the actual mortality among insured lives in Canada as accurately as can be gathered from the returns of the companies," and are represented to be as follows among the active companies, to wit:

1885—9.6 in 1,000.
1886—8.1 in 1,000.
1887—8.3 in 1,000.
1888—8.6 in 1,000.

There are a number of substantial reasons for believing that the rate of mortality among the Foresters will be even lower than that experienced by the insurance companies. In the first place the limit of age for admission is up to the 55th year of age in the I. O. F., and among the insurance companies it is in some, at least, as high as the 65th year of age. In the second place a large proportion of those who insure in the old line companies are men over 35 years of age, while a very large proportion of those who join the I. O. F. are young men between the ages of 18 and 30. The average age of the members of the I. O. F. to-day is

ONLY 28.67 YEARS."

The selection of lives is another important element in connection with the business of Life Insurance, and in this matter the system of the I. O. F. must be acknowledged to be far superior to that of any Old Line Insurance Company. In the first place the Medical Examination Papers of the I. O. F. are conceded to be among the most rigid and the best extant. We have a corps of Court Physicians who act as examiners, who as a rule, are the leaders in their profession in their respective localities, eminent alike for their attainments in their profession, and as honorable and high-minded citizens. The result of the personal examinations made by our Court Physicians are submitted for review to a Medical Board, whose Secretary not only holds the degrees from Medical Colleges of this country, but who holds also the degrees of the Universities of Edinburgh, and London, England, and who has made his subject a special study. In addition to the above tests every applicant for membership in the I. O. F. must pass the scrutiny of those who know of his daily life, and in this way the selected lives of the I. O. F. are made of

A MUCH HIGHER GRADE

than that of any Insurance Company can possibly be.

Passing to the subject of our Reserve Fund and about which the *Monetary Times* makes the following observations:

"Sooner than anyone could have reasonably predicted, one short year ago, this so-called Life Insurance Company, (*sic*), conducted upon the assessment plan, has begun to trench upon its short-lived reserve fund in order to pay current death claims."

Further on the following extract is given:

"Here are the figures as they have appeared, showing the reserve fund on the 1st of each month for three months from February 1st, in 1889 and 1890:—

Month.	1889.	1890.
February 1st.....	\$121,893	\$192,236.
March 1st.....	129,891	190,406.
April 1st.....	133,184	184,879.
May 1st.....	139,944	186,490
Increase.....	18,051	
Decrease.....		\$5,746.

And this decrease would be \$7,000 greater if all the death claims up to the 30th April had found their way into the accounts."

Of course what is sought to be shown above is that the I. O. F. in the natural order of things has entered upon the period which is but the beginning of the end so often predicted by the *Monetary Times*, and that its former statements that "in ten years the I. O. F. will have a stiff annual deficit to meet" is beginning to be verified. In view of the extraordinary epidemic of *La*