

That \$3,000,000 surplus by the time Supreme Court meets in August is assured. The average increase last year was over \$50,000 a month. The same average will do it.

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Constant effort is the price of success. Let us keep pushing things. 150,000 members by Sept. 1st. Every member brought in increases the security of those who are now in.

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The courts instituted during 1897 numbered 458. This is also a marked gain on any former year. The indications are that for 1898 the number of new courts will be greater than ever.

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This is February. A month of the new year is gone. What have you attempted of all that you promised? Don't forget to secure a new member before you forget your good resolutions.

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For the first time in many months New York came second. It was only a difference of 4. Quebec 186, New York 182. We were beginning to think that New York could not be dislodged.

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25,315 is the net increase that the Order needs to make between now and the meeting of Supreme Court to be able to meet that body with a membership of 150,000. It can be done. "*Secure a new member.*"

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The gain in membership for 1897 was 21,847, or 1,820 per month, or about 70 per day. No wonder the average age and death-rate are low, and that the surplus is mounting up, like the membership, faster than ever.

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1897 is a year to be remembered. The additions to the membership were the greatest, the increase in the surplus the largest. The average age the lowest. The faith of the members in the I.O.F. the highest. It was a superlative year.

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It is still safe to bank on the old premier province of Ontario. The province gave 352 applications for January, of which the East gave 90, the Centre 124, and the West 138; the mother High Court—as was becoming—leading for the New Year.

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The net increase in the membership for the month of December was **2,775**. We know some Old Line Companies that think they have done well if their net increase for a year is up to our old *hundreds* for December, leaving the thousands out of consideration.

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"A man that makes character makes foes." So sang the poet. What is true of the individual is

equally true of the institution. Independent Forestry has made for itself a character for enterprise, success and integrity. The enemies it has made are a tribute to its worth.

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The officers for 1898 have been installed and are by this time familiar with their work. They will find work as well as honor connected with the office. The more work the more honor. There is a good deal expected of the officers of 1898. We count on them making this the record year of the I.O.F.

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The improvidence in times of prosperity is the chief reason for the suffering in times of adversity. Good times are returning. Let people practise the thrift and forethought inculcated by the I.O.F., and when lean years revisit us, the store laid by and the habits of economy formed will stand us in good stead.

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To be of any account in the world one must live for others rather than himself. The individual who is living for himself is easily spared, and little missed. It is this great fact, that man lives for others, that inspires the effort, self-denial and forethought that have done so much for humanity, and that is daily leading men to protect their loved ones, by securing an interest in the benefits of a safe, benevolent and tried institution like the I.O.F.

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Of a truth, the Order gets younger as it gets older. The average age of the 124,685 members that were in good standing on the 1st January, 1898, was 35.40 years. Twelve months ago the average age of the members was 35.49 years, so that while the Order is a year older and has increased its membership by 23,861, the average age is, through the large additions of young members, a shade less than it was at the beginning of 1897.

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There is a provincial election on in Ontario. Of more importance to the elector is it to have a benefit certificate with the I.O.F. than to have his party in power. The certificate will be of a great deal more use to his family than a political party. The candidates we are most interested in are candidates for membership in the I.O.F. We vote for Grit, Tory, Independent, Patron, etc., as often as we get a chance. Bring them on.

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The committee that has charge of the bronze statue of the Chief report satisfactory progress. Bro. Allward, a talented young artist of Toronto, secured the contract for the work after competition. The casting will be done in Paris. The figure of the Chief in imperishable bronze will be the crowning glory of the beautiful rotunda of the Tem-