

be said, from hand to mouth, our granary is pretty well filled with nearly 90,000 gold dollars, available for any accident that might occur.

The people who, during the seven years of plenty, collected simply enough for present needs were doubtless just as happy and lived more cheaply than the Egyptians under the direction of Joseph, but a little later on, while other people were starving, "there was corn in Egypt."

So it is with us. While an epidemic of cholera might drive some of our sister Societies to starvation and death, the I. O. F. will, like the prudent Joseph and the Egyptians, live on as serenely as ever, because in any time of disaster we can fall back on our reserve.

The prudent man who intends to live to a good old age will therefore join the I. O. F., while the happy-go-lucky fellows will find insurance for to-day a little cheaper in an Assessment Society.

Our members must always bear in mind that the I. O. F. was organized as a happy medium between the "from day-to-day insurance" of Assessment Societies and the extravagantly rich monopolies as found in the Old Line Insurance Companies, who extort nearly three times more than is actually necessary to run their concern safely and permanently.

The I. O. F. never boasted of its cheapness. All we claim for the I. O. F. is that we give more benefits than any other Society in the world, and at the least possible cost to our members, consistent with safety and permanency.

We think we have succeeded admirably in our system. Societies which have been formed since ours was organized, have either largely copied our system, or have bodily transferred our system and made it their own, thus paying us the highest possible tribute, and testifying in the most unmistakable manner that there is none better than the I. O. F.

A Game at Deception Exposed.

The *Monetary Times*, of Toronto, Canada, has of late devoted considerable space to defending the cause of the level-premium life insurance system, and by manufacturing so-called facts and figures it attempts to injure the assessment or natural-premium system of life insurance.

Its principal endeavor seems to be to induce the people to pour into the coffers of the level-premium companies a very much larger sum than is required, from year to year, to meet current death claims, under the pretext that by the payment of such excess the insured will be benefited.

A few schemers, having organized a level-premium company with a few thousand dollars capital, placed by themselves, are supported by the *Monetary Times* in furthering their scheme of collecting from their members vast sums of money in the name of life insurance out of all proportion to the actual needs for payment of death claims. The *Monetary Times*, in its anxiety to advance the interests of these schemers, whom it dubs "financiers," absolutely advances the theory, that a life in-

urance organization based upon the natural-premium system can not stand!

The natural-premium system requires that the members shall contribute, each year, to its treasuries a sum equal to the death claims with a loading of 33 1/3 per cent. in excess of its death claims as a tontine reserve or emergency fund, and in addition a loading for expenses which experience has proven to be entirely sufficient.

The *Monetary Times*, claiming to be edited by gentlemen familiar with the problems of finance, wants the public to believe that such institutions will be unable to meet their current death claims; but the average business man will be easily convinced that such an editor is playing his part as a fool for pay, just as the audience in the theatre sees that the fool in the play is not in reality a fool at all, but is simply making believe he is, because he is an actor, and is paid to act like an idiot.—Our Society Journal.

It seems that the *Monetary Times* is getting as well known in the U. S. as it is in Canada, as a most unreliable and unfair Journal upon all questions affecting such Fraternal Benefit Societies as give insurance benefits to their members.

It will be in the recollection of our members that the *Monetary Times* has, on several occasions, wantonly attacked the I. O. F., and that such attacks have been so grossly unfair, and that the truth has been so elaborately distorted by the *Monetary Times* that its attacks have resulted to the advantage of our Order, and that not withstanding its repeated warnings to the public that "our rates are inadequate," our Order continues to grow marvelously, no less than 500 applicants having passed through the hands of our Medical Board, and our cash surplus is now nearly \$90,000. That the I. O. F. is steadily gaining the public confidence is evidenced by the formation since our last issue of 16 new Courts, which are reported in this issue.

Misrepresentation and Inconsistency.

"THOS. DAN" AT IT AGAIN.

I have been informed that the agents of the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Co. have been circulating throughout the city and district a leaflet purporting to be an explanation of the "Homans Plan" of assurance, which it attacks. It contains garbled extracts from evidence given by Mr. Homans before a committee of the New York legislature fifteen years ago. This evidence the Ontario Mutual agents wish the public to believe refers to the "Homans Plan" operated by the Federal Life Assurance Co. Deception is thus practiced, as the "Homans Plan," now so popular, was adopted and put into practice only some six years ago. Apart from this I wish to say, as the best possible answer to the attacks of the Ontario Mutual agents that, Mr. Hendry, the manager of their company, has

HIS OWN LIFE INSURED

on the "Homans Plan," and in this manner testifies emphatically to its merits. What is good enough for the clever discriminating manager of the Ontario Mutual ought surely to be good enough for its agents. Mr. Homans, in a letter to *The Budget*, an impartial insurance journal published in Toronto, says: "No less than five of the presidents of Canadian companies have made voluntary

applications for insurance in this society, and are now insured with us." It seems, then, that the manager of the Ontario Mutual is not alone in his practical testimony regarding the soundness of the "Homans Plan." It is little wonder that *The Budget* was led to remark as follows:—"Isn't it rather strange that the 'old companies' in Canada should so persistently oppose and decry the Homans system, while the highest officials of some of them are testifying to its merits by giving risks on their own lives to Mr. Homans' company."

CONSISTENCY IS A JEWEL.

not conspicuous among the ornaments that decorate some of the insurance fraternity." Notwithstanding all that is said by the agents of rival companies, the Federal goes on marching to the front. Last year its business in Canada amounted to \$4,039,020, exceeding that of all other companies except one, which it was only a trifle behind. It surpassed the Ontario Mutual to the enormous extent of \$1,626,900, and it is no wonder agents of the latter cry out. In conclusion, I wish to say that if any one desires information regarding the "Homans Plan" I will be glad to furnish it as the agents of other companies and particularly those of the Ontario Mutual are liable to misunderstand it.

ROBERT STEWART,

General agent,

Federal Life Assurance Co.,

Office, 74 Sparks street.

A Good Firm.

Brother Whale has moved to Ottawa and joined the Real Estate and Insurance firm of Linden, Halkett, Whale & Co. We called upon Brother Whale while in Ottawa this month, and found the offices, which are situated opposite the Grand Union Hotel, most commodious and admirably adapted for the business of the firm. We understand the firm is doing already a large business. The Halkett of this firm is a brother to our esteemed High Secretary of Ontario. We commend the firm to all Foresters and others having any business in the line of the firm, which includes auction business, collecting accounts, etc., etc.

Notes.

Sixteen New Courts since last report. Beat that record who can.

Five hundred and eleven applications to the Medical Board for March is not bad, even for the I. O. F.

Eight thousand four hundred members in "good standing" on the 1st April is pretty good, especially when backed by \$87,000 cash in the Treasury.

THE FORESTER has been delayed beyond the usual time this month, owing to the absence of the S. C. R. in Ottawa watching the interests of the I. O. F.

The Executive have decided not to press for the private Incorporation Bill of the I. O. F., but to accept in its stead the Bill which has been introduced into the House of Commons by Bro. G. L. Dickenson, M. P. We understand Bro. Dickenson's Bill contains all of the provisions of the Hunter Bill introduced in the Ontario Legislature, and a number of other provisions which are much desired by some of the Fraternal Societies; among these provisions being one giving Societies like the I. O. F. liberty to deposit with the Government their Surplus Funds.