

have been the result of habitual excessive use of alcoholics, opiates, etc., also in litigation, \$32,414.50.

Claims arising out of deaths from suicide, excessive use of alcoholics, narcotics, etc., occurring since the enactment by your body of the present law, providing for partial payments, also including those in which the evidence shows misrepresentation in the application for membership, or non-good standing in the Subordinate Lodge or Rank at time of death, all of which remain unsettled at this time, \$32,000.

Claims in which settlement is pending, awaiting receipt of proper evidence showing appointment of guardian for minor beneficiaries, or other legal requirements, \$46,000.

Claims under consideration by the Medical Examiner-in-Chief, in which the usual proofs of death have been received, \$66,000.

The matter of desired changes in the laws of the Endowment Rank relative to the failure of remittances in reaching the Board of Control within the time specified owing to delay in mail or railway facilities, and the question of secretaries of sections being made the agents of the Board of Control. We desire to say that we used every means at our disposal to bring about the desired changes. However, the Supreme Lodge in its wisdom did not agree to the propositions relative to the first proposition, we feel satisfied that no harm or injustice can happen to the members of this Rank if they comply with the law, and we have the promise from the Board of Control that sufficient evidence will be supplied the sections interested, showing to the membership why such change is not advisable, and giving them every assurance of ample protection regarding the second change with reference to the Secretary being made the agent of the Board of Control. This change has been rendered practically impossible owing to the laws in a large number of the different states requiring a very heavy government deposit on all agents appointed and doing business as agents of a fraternal insurance company.

We trust that this explanation, together with the further information the members will receive from the Board, will be satisfactory, and that this very important Rank will meet with a large patronage in this Domain.

The following circular letter has been issued by the Board of Control, and was received by H. J. Anstie, S. R., Sept. 25th, 1898:

Chicago, September 15th, 1898.

To Officers and Members of the Endowment Rank, Knights of Pythias, and the Order Universal:

In view of the many misleading and untruthful reports relative to the Endowment Rank, which were sent over the wires during the meeting of the Supreme Lodge at Indianapolis, and in order that the membership of the Rank may be truthfully informed, and further, that they may be fully assured as to the solvency of the Rank and its ability to meet all of its obligations, the Board of Control at this time deem it both proper and just to the membership to make the following statement:

But one single question was raised at the Supreme Lodge relative to the management of the Endowment Rank, and that was as to the nature of certain of its securities, the character of which has been fully explained in a previous circular, embodying a statement of the absolute facts in the case.

At the request of the Supreme Lodge, the President of the Board of Control furnished to that body a full and comprehensive list of all of the securities held, accompanied by letters from several recognized authorities as to their value. The explanation was of such a satisfactory character that the Board's report was adopted practically by a unanimous vote of the Supreme Lodge, and, as a vindication of the management, and as an expression of absolute confidence the old Board was re-elected.

As to the character of all of the investments of the Endowment Rank, the Board of Control say, without hesitancy, that they are of the very best, amply and properly secured.

Some of the securities, purchased at the same time as those that were questioned, have since been sold at a premium of 8 5-8 per cent., and there is absolutely no reason to believe that there will be any loss on the securities now held by the Rank. On the whole, the investments representing the surplus funds of the Endowment Rank are deemed first-class in every respect, and equally as good in quality and character as those held by any other kindred organization or insurance company.

But, irrespective entirely of the investments, the Rank is more than self sustaining. That such is the case must be evident from the fact that during the quarter ending July 1st, 1898, death claims to the amount of \$283,000.00 were paid, and so far during the present quarter, \$268,000.00. Of this amount, \$90,000.00 was paid during the last ten days, and all uncontested claims against the Endowment Rank, as soon as they are approved, will be promptly paid. Can a more forcible argument be used as to the solvency of the Rank, and can any life institution point to a more honorable record?

The Board earnestly trusts that the brethren will not allow the enemies of the Rank to sow the seeds of distrust and lack of confidence in their minds, but that they will show their appreciation of the protection afforded by the Rank, by giving to the Board of Control their loyal support in its efforts to make the Rank a continued success—not contenting themselves with being members only of the Rank, but doing everything to increase the scope and usefulness of this most important co-ordinate branch of our Order.

Fraternally,

J. A. HINSEY,

President, Board of Control.

Attest:

H. B. STOLTE,

Secretary, Board of Control.

THE SUPREME TRIBUNAL.

This important branch of our Government was the cause of considerable discussion, and a general feeling prevailed that their number should be reduced from that of five to three. Many were of the opinion that the Tribunal should be entirely abolished, principally on the ground of the great expense attached to that particular branch. However valuable the Tribunal may be to the Order, we cannot disguise the fact that it is exceedingly costly, as the following figures show. During the period of its existence this branch of the Supreme Lodge has cost \$8,740.25. It has held ten sittings at an average expense of \$874 per sitting. Twenty-five decisions have been arrived at at a cost of \$349.61 for each decision. This will give our reader a fair idea of the expense in connection with the Supreme Court of the Order, and place him in