

trouble must exhaust every effort in so dealing with it before call is made upon any outside body; but if ever the need arises, back of the city stands the State, and back of the State stands the nation."

DROPPING DOWNWARD.

A copy of the "Pocket Register," a yearly chart of fraternal societies, just to hand from the New York Spectator office, shows that a considerable number of societies on this continent are now on the wane, and, like the Independent Order Foresters, unable to bring in anything like as much "new blood" as formerly. Among these, most of the state jurisdictions of the Ancient Order United Workmen appear to be in the most hopeless condition of disintegration. The following are a few of the indications standing out on the pages of the chart, respecting them and others:—

The United Workmen of Iowa had \$24,309,000 of insurance in force in 1900, and have now only \$23,552,000, though in the interval the society issued new certificates for over ten millions of dollars. All these new millions failed in keeping the total from shrinking by nearly a million.

The Illinois branch, likewise, had \$28,054,000 in force in 1901, and has now only \$18,770,224, though upwards of nine millions of new were put on in the intervening four years. Instead of the \$4,567,000 of new certificates issued two years ago, only \$453,000 was scored in 1904.

In Maine, the Workmen had \$14,352,000 on the books two years ago, and now show only \$9,898,200. The new business came to \$1,911,000 in 1902, but in 1903 only \$776,000, and in 1904, new certificates of only \$69,000 were issued.

Massachusetts makes a very bad record of progress backward for the A.O.U.W. In 1900 that state had \$117,325,000 in force, but to-day only \$57,526,000. And its new issues, which in 1900 amounted to \$8,045,000, have dwindled to less than two millions, and last year fell to only \$331,000.

Michigan scores nearly as badly. In 1900 that branch boasted of a total business on the books of \$38,548,000. Some six millions of new was obtained, but the total, nevertheless, has dropped to \$28,084,291. Only \$67,000—a mere nothing—of new was put on in the past year.

Minnesota shows an improvement of about ten millions upon the \$46,915,000 total of the year 1900. About twenty millions of new certificates were issued in the four years, so that ten millions must have dropped out by death or lapse. Owing to such infusion of new blood its death-rate is only half that of the Michigan jurisdiction.

Nebraska shows an increase of certificates in four years of only about twelve millions out of over thirty-two millions of new entrants, its total now standing at \$68,961,000.

New York State makes a very poor record for the past five years, in its branch of the same A.O.U.W. In 1900 it had \$54,423,000 in force, but now has only \$33,603,600, being a drop of \$20,820,000, though about \$11,351,000 of new was written in the meantime. The new blood in 1902 was represented by \$4,229,000, and in 1903 by \$2,551,000, but in 1904 by only the comparative trifle of \$573,000. The cause of this decline is very apparent in the order's great increase of death-cost, which is from \$17 per \$1,000 in 1900 till now it amounts to \$28 per \$1,000. The outlook is gloomy in the extreme.

Pennsylvania's record of the past five years is

very similar to that of New York. From \$29,013,000 three years ago, and a death-rate of \$19.80 per \$1,000, its certificates have dropped to \$18,300,700, while its death-rate has increased over 25 per cent., and in 1904 was \$25.20 per \$1,000. From \$2,112,000 new certificates in one year, last year's in-take was only \$176,000.

Tennessee Workmen took in new members for \$821,900 in the year 1903, but only \$77,000 in 1904, and ten times that amount disappeared from the books.

In Texas, new certificates for \$2,444,000 were granted in 1903, and only \$822,000 in 1904, and three times that amount lapsed during the year.

The state jurisdiction of Wisconsin makes a still worse showing. Its \$14,418,000 in force two years ago has now dropped to \$8,330,152. Also, its new business from being \$1,687,000 has dropped to \$489,000 in 1904.

What is called the Supreme Lodge jurisdiction, embracing all the different State sections of the Order, shows a decline in two years of the total business in force, from \$799,039,000 in 1902, to only \$556,593 in 1904. And the new in-take from \$110,019,000 to only \$25,897,395.

In the Province of Ontario, from a total in force of \$72,388,500 one year ago, there is a drop to \$69,471,500, the death-rate growing from \$8.10 in 1901 to \$10.70 in 1904. And the new entrants the past year took only \$1,852,000 of certificates, as compared with \$5,146,000 in 1901. The prospect for "new blood" in 1905 is exceedingly gloomy, the rates having been heavily increased.

The Iowa Workmen, like those of Ontario, broke away from the Supreme Lodge, of Meadville, Penn., some years ago, and in 1900 had grown to \$3,141,000, the assessments being only \$22.70 per \$1,000. But in 1904 the three millions had dwindled to \$726,193, while the death-rate had become double, scoring \$45.40.

THE JAPANESE NAVAL VICTORY.

For months the world has been waiting for the conflict of the Russian fleet with that of Japan. And now that it has come no one is surprised, unless it be at the overwhelming character of the victory achieved by the latter power. Almost everybody expected Japan to win, indeed wished her to win; but hardly anyone thought it possible that such crushing defeat could be imposed upon the formidable combined fleets of Russia as that of Saturday and Sunday last in the Straits of Korea.

The first account of the affair from an eye-witness that we have seen appeared in the Toronto Mail and Empire of yesterday. It confirms the opinion generally formed of the superior tactics of Admiral Togo as well as of the skill and fighting qualities of the Japanese fleet. The naval battle of Monday resulted badly enough for the Russians, but the subsequent night attack of the Japanese torpedo boats was still more disastrous. Up to 30th May, the record is thirteen Russian ships sunk and six captured, but the total has since been alleged to be increased, while 3,000 prisoners were taken. It is not easy to understand how so vast damage could have been inflicted upon the Russian ships while, as is stated, the Japanese have suffered the loss of only three torpedo boats and no big ships. And we still incline to the belief that Japan's losses will prove greater than thus far announced.

However this may prove, Russia's naval power is