

Col. W. M. Drennan, of Kingston, writes concerning the Extension of the Order Tax: "In every hive of bees there are drones and workers; so it is in the Foresters, for every worker there are 50, aye, 100 drones. Those who work and bring in one or more members each, are benefited; they are exempted from the increase of assessment; those who are content to sit idle and be drones must be prepared to pay a small sum towards the cost of keeping up a small army of organizers. Could anything be fairer or more just than this arrangement?"

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of a very convenient chart of the fraternal societies doing business in Canada, also tables of rates for \$1,000 insurance and expectation of life. The chart is issued by the Bulletin Publishing Company of Toronto.

We have to record the death, at the allotted period of three score and ten, of Bro. Wm. Stevenson, of Port Huron, Mich. The death took place in the hospital at Detroit, following an operation. Deceased was the father of our Supreme Counselor, Elliott G. Stevenson, and of Bro. A. E. Stevenson, H.C.R., the representative of the Order in United States. The funeral, at which the Supreme Chief Ranger represented the Executive, took place on May 2nd, and was very largely attended, as the deceased was very widely known and held in the greatest esteem.

As Foresters we take no interest in political strife. But we do like to see members of the I.O.F. honored by their fellow countrymen. The following list of M.P.'s sitting in the present House of Assembly for New Brunswick shows how public men, though differing in politics, may be linked together in L., B. and C. :

COUNTIES.	MEMBERS.
Albert	Hon. Henry R. Emmerson (Premier.)
"	Charles J. Osman.
Carleton	Frank B. Carvell.
"	Hugh Henry McCain.
Kent	James Barnes.
King's	Hon. A. S. White (Attorney-General.)
"	George G. G. Scovil.
Madawaska	Fred Laforest.
Northumberland ..	Hon. J. P. Burchill.
"	Charles E. Fish.
Queen's	Isaac W. Carpenter.
St. John County ..	Hon. Albert T. Dunn. (Surveyor-General.)
Sunbury	J. Douglas Hazen (Opposition Leader.)
Westmoreland ...	W. Woodbury Wells.
York	Alexander Gibson, Jr.

Official Circular No. 4.

To all Courts and Encampments, Greeting :

Again it becomes my duty to call upon you as members of a great fraternity to unitedly return fervent and heartfelt thanks to Our Heavenly Father, on this the 25th anniversary of the Independent Order of Foresters, for the manifold blessings vouchsafed to us as individuals, and for the success and prosperity which continues to be accorded to the work of our beloved Order.

During the quarter of a century just ending the Order has accomplished much which should cause every Forester to be devoutly thankful and stimulate us to work still more diligently for the prosperity of an institution which has already done so much for humanity.

On the approaching 17th June we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that we are members of a prosperous and united Order, which has within the first 25 years of its existence pushed its way, not without many trials and tribulations, to the foremost position in the fraternal society world; an Order whose system has been so formed and perfected that it serves not only as a model to kindred institutions, but also a guide to legislative action on the part of Governments; an Order whose continued progress and prosperity in its 25th year is shown by the following record :

THE SPLENDID RECORD OF THE I.O.F.
The Magnificent Benefits Paid.

Benefits paid last year (1898).....	\$1,176,125 14
Benefits paid from 17th June, 1874, to 31st Dec., 1898.....	6,279,992 84
<i>Total Benefits Paid During the 1st Four Months of 1899.</i>	
Mortuary.....	\$428,696 44
Total and Permanent Disability....	24,900 00
Old Age Benefits.....	1,300 00
Sick and Funeral	78,678 74
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	\$533,575 18
<i>Total Benefits Paid From Organization to 1st May, 1899.</i>	
Mortuary.....	\$5,684,045 60
Total and Permanent Disability...	222,620 33
Old Age Benefits.....	12,148 30
Sick and Funeral	894,753 79
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	\$6,813,568 02

The Growth of the Membership.

Membership 1st July, 1881	369
Membership 31st December, 1881 ..	1,019
Membership 31st December, 1886 ..	5,804
Membership 31st December, 1891 ..	32,303
Membership 31st December, 1896 ..	102,838
Membership 31st December, 1898 ..	148,265

The Increases During 1898.

Increase of Benefits Paid.....	\$183,899 54
Increase of Premium Income	192,660 48
Increase of Total Income.....	292,660 42
Increase of Net Assets.....	600,000 00
Increase of Surplus Funds.....	627,537 58

The Expansion of the Surplus.

Surplus 1st July, 1881, date of Re- organization	\$ 0
Surplus 31st Dec., 1881.....	4,568 55
Surplus 31st Dec., 1886	53,981 28
Surplus 31st Dec., 1891.....	408,798 20
Surplus 31st Dec., 1896.....	2,015,484 38
Surplus 31st Dec., 1898	3,186,370 38