

The Order refused to pay on the ground that Rivet was suspended from membership at the time of his death for non-payment of his dues. Judge Langelier held that as the Order owed Rivet more for sick benefits at the time his dues were payable than they amounted to, he could not be considered to be in debt, but was a member in good standing. The learned judge further criticized the enormous number of rules, over 400, that each member was supposed to know and obey, and very strongly denounced the absence of the boasted fraternal spirit in the Order's dealings with the deceased and his widow. —Commercial Gazette, Montreal, April 25.

The above judgment from the Quebec bench suggests the propriety of every person who holds an assessment society certificate taking stock, as the merchants say, of how many rules his family provision is governed by. And when he finds how many are now in force, let him estimate how many more will be adopted at the next ten or twenty annual meetings, affecting its value. When so goody-goody a society as the Royal Templars practically annuls every total disability certificate by enacting impossible rates, what may be expected from Chosen Friends, A.O.U.W., and other capital letter fraternities when occasion arises? This feature is worth thinking about just now, especially if Mrs. Rivet has a heavy bill of costs to pay through Judge Langelier's decision being reversed by a higher court.

INSTITUTE OF BANKERS IN IRELAND.

The first attempt to establish an Irish Institute was made as far back as the year 1878, and a meeting of the officials of several Dublin banks was held in the November of that year. The movement was confined to Dublin, and had its genesis with the chiefs of departments. The offers of support were not considered sufficient and the project was abandoned. It was twenty years later before the matter was again taken up in earnest. During the early part of 1898, copious correspondence in the Dublin and Irish provincial press urged the need of an institute, and a committee composed this time wholly of unofficial members of staffs of Irish banks was organized. Mr. F. L. Leet acted as honorary secretary. At the first meeting of this committee, a circular letter was adopted and addressed to every person upon the staff of an Irish bank, setting out the position of the English and Scotch institutes, and "the need, nature and advantages" of an Irish institute. Over seven hundred replies of sympathy with the movement were received, and the committee felt justified in drawing up a programme of resolutions and calling a general meeting. The main effort made was towards enlisting the sympathy of country bankers and their staffs, and to offer them advantages of a substantial nature. Mr. Andrew Jameson (ex-Governor of the Bank of Ireland), took a practical interest in the movement, and intimated that the governors of the bank suggested that a meeting of the principal officers of the Irish banks be called to co-operate with the committee representing the "rank and file." The committees met and combined, and their first efforts resulted in securing the financial support of eleven of the leading banks, who gave a donation of \$3,450 and the promise of an annual subscription of \$1,475. At subsequent meetings the Constitution was drafted, a spacious house for the Institute premises taken in Kildare Place, and arrangements made for the publication of a quarterly Irish "Bankers' Journal," to be issued gratis to all members. The Constitution resembled more closely that of the English Institute. Lectures and banking debates and prize essays, together with a scheme of examinations of candidates for membership were outlined. The country members' interest was considered by the arrangement that a course of lectures should be given in some one provincial centre each year, and by the establishment of a reading-room and library in the cities of Belfast and Cork.

The foundation members elected numbered 719, and the inaugural meeting and banquet was held in October, 1898, at Dublin. Lord Avebury (Sir John Lubbock), the first president of the English Institute, presided and delivered an address. The Provost and Fellows of Trinity College, recognizing the educational aims of the Institute, granted the use of the front examination hall. In addition, hearty support of

the University authorities was given. The Constitution gives the "objects" of the Institute in four concise clauses: (a) To enable the members to acquire a knowledge of the theory and practice of banking, and to promote the consideration and discussion of matters of interest to the profession. (b) To provide for the reading and discussion of approved papers, and the delivery of lectures on Banking and other professional subjects. (c) To maintain a library, consisting of works on Banking, Commerce, Finance, Political Economy, etc. (d) To afford facilities for the social relations amongst its members. The examinations for the Certificate of the Institute also resemble the English rather than the Scotch standard. The following subjects are set: "English, Composition, Arithmetic and Algebra, Book-keeping, Commercial Law, Political Economy, Practical Banking, with French and German as voluntary subjects. The first of the Final Examinations were held in May, 1900, but apparently the report of the Council omits to mention the number of candidates. It expresses satisfaction with the capable methods and preparation of the successful ones, and believes that many banking men, hitherto content with the mechanical routine duties, "adapted themselves to the superior part of an interested and intelligent appreciation of Banking as a whole." Commenting on the examinations, the Editor of the Institute's Journal writes these significant words: "Is it not largely due to our (British) disregard of this matter of technical instruction that the commerce and manufactures of the United Kingdom are not able to hold their own against the specialized competition of Germany and the United States?" The report of the Council indicates that, in common with all sections of the community, the students gave up much of their time to the pursuits of the science of war. The universities had a similar experience. Civilians were said to have become soldiers by sympathy and the arts of peace were relegated to a more convenient season. The closing words of the report of the Council will interest many of our readers, who have speculated on the position of Ireland in the Empire, and we quote the paragraph:

"The Council recognize it as a well-established fact that in the last two decades, Great Britain has had to yield much of her commercial prestige to Germany and the United States. The world's volume of trade has vastly increased, the British hold on it has slackened in grasp and contracted in extent. The Council believe that the lessons of the war to which they have referred are exactly appropriate to the commercial conditions of the country, and calculated to speedily restore the enterprise, tenacity, and supremacy of British trade; and it is their hope that the Institute of Bankers in Ireland may be instrumental, in its own sphere and degree, in contributing to this great end."

The prize for the first essay, "English Financial Crises; Their Causes and Remedies," was awarded to Mr. Bernard Scott, Bank of Ireland, Dublin. The inaugural address of the session 1900—1901 was delivered by Mr. James McCann, M.P., the subject being, "The Economics of the Irish Problem." Unlike the sister-institutes, few of the members have migrated. The United States Consul in Dublin, the Hon. Joshua Wilbour, has been elected an honorary fellow, and the Society's library is indebted for the valuable works on Banking and United States Congressional Records, contributed by him.

The inaugural meeting for the session 1901—1902 opened auspiciously with an address by Lord Castletown, D.L., on "The Land Banks (Ireland) Bill and Land Question," followed by a complimentary supper. Dealing with the social aims of the Institute, we note that sub-committees were formed in connection with the Billiard Room, Choral Society, and the Bankers' Rifle Club. At the close of the last session the members numbered 789, and were governed by three Trustees and a Council of twenty-one members, Mr. Charles E. Martin, Governor of the Bank of Ireland, acting as president. The Journal is ably edited by Messrs. W. A. Craig and W. Newman Thompson, while the secretarial responsibilities are undertaken by Mr. F. L. Leet, LL.B., Bank of Ireland, Dublin.

Since the foundation of the Scotch, English and Irish Institutes, the interests of the banking profession have been promoted, and especially by the watching and amending of legislative proposals or in some cases initiating them. The