

Use These Facts.

In the opinion of a great many members, the most interesting and important statement ever issued by the Order was that given by the Supreme Chief in the February issue of *THE INDEPENDENT FORESTER*, in which a summary was made of the standing of the I.O.F. and the great work done in 1897. We give from that statement the following facts, that every member should remember and use for the still further advancement of our great Order.

I. Membership.—124,685, showing a net gain for 1897 of 21,847, and an advance on the gain for 1896 of 6,013.

II. Average Age.—Though a year was added to the age of the Order, the number of young men that joined during the year was so great that the average age, instead of increasing, was reduced from 35.49 years to 35.40 years. The I.O.F. is an Order of young men.

III. Death Rate.—For five years the death rate has been below 6 in the 1,000, for 1897 the death rate was 5.56 in the thousand, a remarkably low death rate for an Order in the twenty-fourth year of its history.

IV. Surplus.—On the 31st December the surplus stood at \$2,558,832.78, showing a gain of \$545,348.40 for the year. A marked advance on the gain made in any previous year.

V. Benefits Paid.—Mortuary benefits to the beneficiaries of deceased Foresters \$817,647.45, sick and funeral benefits \$129,077.65, total and permanent disability benefits \$43,500, and old age benefits \$2,000.00; a total of \$992,225.60. This vast amount went to relieve suffering and bereaved ones at a time when their need was greatest.

VI. Management Expenses, for the securing of new business and the carrying of the old business, were only \$5.68 for each new member received into the mortuary department, as compared with \$6.81 for the preceding year.

VII. New Courts.—The number of new courts instituted during 1897 was 458, or an average of 38 per month.

Gains since the beginning of 1898.—On the 1st April the surplus was \$2,714,314.64, an increase of \$155,481.86. The membership on the first of March was 128,540, a gain of 3,855 in two months. The new courts added since January 1st number 185. Nothing is needed but a united, persistent effort on the part of the members to have the membership at 150,000, and the surplus at \$3,000,000 when the Supreme Court meets in August.

We gladly add to the goodly list of brothers recently elected to the Ontario Legislature the name of Bro. Henry Eilber, M.P.P., of South Huron, a member of Court Crediton, No. 14, and a P.C.R. Congratulations, brother.

Don't.

Below we give a dozen "don'ts," slightly modified to suit our members. We found them in *Our Home*, the official organ of the Home Circle.

1. Don't fail to be present at all your court meetings.

2. Don't fail to pay your dues promptly.

3. Don't fail to pay your assessments promptly.

4. Don't forget to have a pleasant smile and a welcome for everybody.

5. Don't forget that the officers of your court are working for you. Their interests are yours also.

6. Don't talk during initiatory ceremonies.

7. Don't forget to pay particular attention to new members.

8. Don't forget to have applications always on hand.

9. Don't forget to bring in new members.

10. Don't forget to visit other courts.

11. Don't say too much if asked to speak.

12. Don't forget to read *THE INDEPENDENT FORESTER*. There is much to learn by so doing.

"Saved Him from Becoming a Dependent."

Members do not as a rule appreciate the benefits that are assured them on joining the I.O.F. The social side of the Order has not been developed as much as it deserves. We are persuaded that this feature will receive more and more attention. In the midst of the activities and competitions of business, there is danger of neglecting the social relationships and claims of life. In the courtroom members meet as brothers, lay aside their cares and enjoy one another's fellowship, and acquire a deeper interest in one another's welfare. The sick benefits enjoyed by thousands have stood between many a family and hardships, if not want, at seasons when the breadwinner was laid aside. The disability benefit, of which little is said, has brought a measure of comfort to hundreds, and saved them, as the following letter sets forth, from becoming dependents on others when health was irretrievably lost. The testimony of Mr. Rounds, that has come unsolicited, is conclusive proof of all we have said:

PAVILION CENTRE, N.Y.
March 21st 1898.

MR. C. R. FITZGERALD,
High State Sec., I.O.F.,
Buffalo, N.Y.

DEAR SIR:

About ten years ago my brother, Eugene Rounds, recently deceased, joined the Valley Court, Independent Order of Foresters, in Saginaw, Mich.

Three years ago, in consequence of sickness and disease, he was totally incapacitated from perform-