

seventy-six hundred and fourteen members, and one million six hundred and seventy-six thousand dollars endowment.

One million two hundred and two thousand dollars was distributed during the year 1899 to the dependents of five hundred and eighty-nine deceased members.

The beginning of the current year shows thirty-nine hundred sections in operation, a membership of sixty thousand three hundred and nine, and the endowment in force one hundred and eight million ninety-eight thousand five hundred dollars.

The investments and cash on hand aggregate four hundred and eighty-eight thousand four hundred and fifty-seven dollars and sixty-nine cents, and the total paid for death claims fourteen million two hundred and twenty-six thousand and seventy-seven dollars and sixty-eight cents.

While the labors of the past year have been most fruitful, the results fully meeting our expectations, your Board believe that a united effort on the part of the membership of the rank, its officers and organisers will show the work of the year 1900 to have exceeded all records of the past.

Fraternally,

J. A. HINSEY,

President Board of Control.

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H. B. STOLK,

Secretary Board of Control.

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THE VETERANS.

A plan is now on foot which, it is hoped, will meet the approbation of the entire Pythian membership and by which the fraternal ties of a certain portion of the membership will be materially strengthened. During the Spanish-American War there were more than 9,000 members of the Knights of Pythias wearing the United States blue, marching and undergoing hardships at the front. It is now proposed to organize a Pythian Veterans' Association to be made up of the members of the Order who served in the regular or volunteer ranks during this war, and it is suggested that as the bi-ennial campment and Convention will be held in August next, this would be an opportune time for bringing these veterans together for formal organization.

The General Committee in Detroit is at work arranging the local plans and expenses so that it will be possible to carry out the project successfully and if the Pythians interested will co-operate with the Committee in suggesting details of the plan, there can be added to the regular convention, a feature which will not only increase the interest in the assembling Pythians, but will allow the veterans to make their first meeting a big success. The Detroit military committee will assist in the entertainment of the military visitors. There can be a big camp-fire and if thought best, a parade of the veterans in which all civic and military bodies in Detroit will assist.

Chairman Cunningham of the General Committee desires to hear immediate expressions from veterans on this point in order that the

plan can be consummated or dropped as is thought best. It is intended to make the programme of the re-union of veterans such that it will in no way interfere with the regular work of the Encampment or Convention, but it is believed that no effort should be spared to make this the greatest gathering of loyal Pythians ever seen on any soil.

The work of the Committee in preparing for the Convention is daily growing in volume, and the various sub-committees are gradually getting down to work with good results.

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PYTHIAN PUBLICATIONS.

What We Learn Through Them—The Great Work They Accomplish.

But few appreciate the value of journals issued in the interest of our Order. But there is a value about them that should be impressed upon members and officials in general. The secret of success or failure is plainly shown in the communications sent to these papers; and any Lodge desiring to make itself more prosperous can find no better or easier method than by closely reading the reports of many lodges and profiting by their experience, whether of failure or success. The paper is to the Order the same as the father to the family, an exponent of the truth that leads to prosperity, and always to be relied on. In the paper we read of the dead lodge that makes no progress and by closely reading the reports from that lodge, the truth is at once divulged as to the cause, and if the reader is wise will teach how to avoid letting his Lodge fall into similar waywardness.

From the papers, says the "Lodge Secret," we learn the names and standing of members of the Order prominent and in high official station whom, but for the paper, we should probably never hear of, and creates that friendly feeling so dear to every member of the Order.

When a brother dies we read of the good he has done while among us, and he goes to his last resting-place with the kind sympathies of his brothers, though they may be scattered many miles apart, for the paper has reached out its mighty arm, and the brother reads the same notice in the Pythian press.

The paper also keeps a clear, keen eye upon the Grand and Supreme Lodge finances of the Order, and champions the cause of right, often detrimental to itself for having spoken the plain truth without fear or favor, and every member should be thoroughly posted in this respect, as in the proper management of the finances lies the foundation of all prosperous fraternal orders.

Considering these few points the question arises, can the Order be successful without an official publication? Can a member be useful in the Order without it? Is an official competent officer who never reads it? What must a wife or mother think of an order where she never hears anything about it except from the member's lips, and never sees the publications that would tell her of the beauty, grandeur, charity and many other graces that cluster like pearls in the crown of our great Order.