

\$11,513,590.95. And some large prospective items are looming up. An improved system of sewerage, with great outfall drains, was proposed some years ago, but failed to obtain the sanction of the ratepayers. The present system of sewerage needs improvements, in several particulars. The overflows in consequence of a recent rain storm afford disagreeable proof of this. The practice of throwing the sewage into the bay is injurious, on the score of public health, and it aids the silt of the Don, formerly assumed to deposit two inches every year, to make the navigable water yearly shallower. Then the Esplanade water front in connection with the railways demands a large expenditure, whatever form the works may take. With a city area large in proportion to the population, we cannot count on the present rate of assessment being always maintained, though it is not probable that there will be any material reduction so long as the population increases at the present rate.

The controllable expenditure last year was \$1,001,557, and the uncontrollable \$1,248,817. This last item this year shows an increase of \$246,552 according to the first estimates which are, however, being considerably reduced. This very large proportion of the annual expenditure, about one-half of the whole, is controlled by law or is in the form of interest on the debt, so that the present Council can exercise no option in regard to it. When the law gives school trustees the right to demand a certain amount, and imposes other charges, it interferes, necessarily perhaps, with the municipal autonomy; but necessarily or otherwise, it curtails municipal franchises. A present Council can limit the fiscal powers of future Councils by adding to the debt charges. But it is only in the limits of the controllable expenditure that a present Council can shape its fiscal policy; all outside those limits is shaped for it. Mr. Coady pleads, as his predecessor did, for an early presentation of the year's estimates. If this were done the city would save bank interest, but the ratepayers would lose interest in another form; the loss, however, would not be equal to the gain, and recently the city has been paying on the floating debt a high rate of interest.

The total sum to be dealt with this year is over seven millions, \$7,054,573, of which \$4,155,216 will have to come from "special receipts," and some old high interest debentures will be retired by three or three and a half per cents. The management of the city finances requires prudence at the hands of the Council, which should keep down the estimates as low as possible.

#### DECISIONS IN COMMERCIAL LAW.

**BARTLETT V. IOWA STATE INSURANCE COMPANY.**—The holder of a mortgage on insured property at the time of a loss may maintain an action on the policy, which contains the provision, "Loss, if any, payable to mortgagees as their interest may appear," there being no other mortgagee, though, before action brought, the mortgage is satisfied, the consideration therefor being a transfer of the burned property and the policy. At the time

of the fire no part of mortgage debt had been paid. As to the point that the mortgage had been paid before the suit was begun, the Iowa Supreme Court said, that the mortgagee having taken the policy and burned property for the debt, "she was the real party in interest still, notwithstanding she had given up her mortgage. She did not give up the policy, in which she was always the real party in interest. It is to be observed that this transfer of the property occurred after the loss, and when the plaintiff's policy had become a matured obligation."

—The first case arising under the new Workman's Compensation for Injuries Act was heard at Brantford last week before Judge Jones and a jury. The case was that of Stephenson v. Walker, wherein Mrs. Stephenson, a widow residing in the village of Norwich, sued for \$200 compensation for the death of her son, who was fatally injured in Walker's mill. The son entered the employ of the defendant on August 5th last, went to work at 7 o'clock in the morning, and an hour later was drawn into the machinery and so mangled and torn that he died the following day. The mother had no means of support, her son's death leaving her utterly destitute. The plaintiff alleged that the young man was not sufficiently instructed in the methods of avoiding accident, and that the machinery was not properly guarded. Mr. Code, who had charge of the mill, gave young Stephenson very meagre instructions and turned him over to a 15-year-old lad named Kelso, whom he was to assist in dusting the mill. The defence alleged proper and sufficient instructions and contributory negligence. The case occupied a whole day, many witnesses being called. A verdict was given for the plaintiff for the whole amount asked and full costs of suit.

#### IRON HALL AND SEXENNIAL LEAGUE.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR,—I have no doubt your intentions are good in the advice you give me in your issue of May 30th, viz., "to get into some more reputable calling" than "making converts to the order of the Iron Hall and the Sexennial League, a scheme for putting \$1,000 into the members' pockets for less than one-third of that amount." Some would have you prove such insinuations in the law courts, but my calling being fraternal, as such I will use forbearance. Perhaps you would show me the error in my urging men and women to unite for mutual protection in these societies during sickness.

(1.) The O. I. H., in 1889, paid 8,396 sick claims, amounting to \$507,993.50. Surely this was a great blessing to that large number. No one could think otherwise. The same year paid 198 death benefits, amounting to \$32,482. Was this not a charitable act to the bereaved? The same year 1,145 benefits were paid, amounting to \$879,647.50, to members who had been such for seven years. Altogether, the Order paid out in 1889, \$1,420,123 to 9,639 of its members. Was not this a grand result? Is not this true "burden-bearing" in every phase of human life? And to receive and distribute this large amount it cost one dollar per member per annum.

(2.) The Sexennial League is an offsprung of the O. I. H., twenty-two months old; it has paid out over 800 sick claims, amounting to \$50,000. It is the most prosperous institution I know of, having about 7,500 members already. In these societies we are all in the "ring," that is how none "get left," unless by wilful disobedience to the constitution. If I am wrong, (3.) kindly put me right, and also the 500,000 members who compose these and similar life benefit societies.

The A.O.U.W. is in its 21st year, and according to their statements, which I believe true, the average duration of membership of those who have died was not six years, and

the average assessment of the entire Order has not been 19—that is \$9.50 per annum. This for six years equals \$57 received from those to whose representatives the Order paid \$1,000. Then there is our Canadian institution, whose headquarters are in the city, the Order of Home-Circles, only young, but up to Dec. 31, 1889, having paid out \$154,884.76, and has not received from deceased \$20 for each \$1,000. Of course the members contribute a small amount yearly for management expenses. There is the Royal Arcanum and a host of others with the same results. See THE MONETARY TIMES, Oct. 4, 1889 (4).

"It is a suggestive fact that no fewer than 106 policy-holders of the New York Life died during 1888, each of whom had been insured less than a twelvemonth, the total payments thereon reaching \$451,825.21." The *Hermit* says "the average duration of the oldest insurance company's policy-holder has not reached seven years yet." As I presume you are well posted in insurance matters, will you tell me of an active insurance company that ever paid out \$1,000 for a death claim which on the average received from the deceased \$300 to do it with (less expenses and reserves, which cannot be impaired). Then if these statements are facts, why cannot the Orders you condemn do the same thing? (5.) As you remark in another issue of your journal: "True insurance is based on the average of contingencies; by it the losses of the few are borne by the many; by its aid the active operation of the principles of Christianity in bearing one another's burdens prevents the growth of that form of socialism which tends to anarchy and destruction."

The more extended its operations the more beneficial its results. Why then should we hesitate in the adoption of new forms, "in its introduction to new fields, or its adaptation to new uses, so long as we are careful of its principles." (6.) When I read this, I thought it wrong of you to adopt the principal plank in the platform these societies stand on with both feet. But I must conclude, having occupied considerable of your space; and if I am wrong, kindly, as a fellow-citizen, put me on the right track of being a benefit to humanity, if the gospel according to the O. I. H. and Sexennial League (7) does not fill the bill of a "reputable calling."

I am, dear sir,  
Sincerely yours,  
R. BOWKER.

June 6th, 1890.

REPLY.

[(1.) There are scores of other societies affording mutual protection which have none of the objectionable features so prominent in the two under consideration. We commend mutual protection, but must condemn wholesale deception carried on upon the pretence of doing a little mutual protection.

(2.) Some of these statements are untrue, and possibly all of them are so. The expenses of the Order as sworn to in the Massachusetts Report were \$62,089 in 1888, and the average membership was 33,902, which makes nearly \$2 per head, to say nothing of the expenses in the subordinate lodges. We observe an item of \$10,379 for supplies obtained by the subordinate lodges from the supreme lodge, but how much was paid out locally for rents of halls, lighting, heating, caretaking, refreshments, and other such items, no one knows. It is not honest to represent the cost as only \$1 per member per annum when it is more likely to be four or five dollars. The lodge at Elmira, N. Y., had 167 members in 1887, and its expenses were \$938 that year, which is \$5.60 per head; and in 1888 its expenses were \$2,356 upon an average membership of 189, which is \$12.50 per member. That lodge has recently thrown off the Iron Hall yoke, losing all the money they had sent to Indianapolis for years past, but it has not joined the Sexennial League. No one knows what that fledgling is to cost its members as yet. It does not seem to have made any report to any insurance commissioner, and therefore no reliance whatever can be placed upon its reported prosperous condition.