is made in the report to the marked decrease in the amount of interest in arrears, and to the renewal, oc favorable terms, of such debentures of the company as fell due during the year. And all this, we note, has been accomplished with less expense than formerly, a feature that must commend itself to those interested.

The thirteenth annual report of the Home Savings and Loan Company shows net earnings sufficient to pay all commissions and expenses, seven per cent. dividend, and to leave a balance of $19,742. To this has been added out of premium on new stock, $5,000. The Reserve Fund is swelled by $20,000 and the Contingent Fund by $4,000. From the Contingent Account $16,000 was taken during the year to apply on a lock-up of some years ago. The new shares mentioned a year ago have all been issued, we believe, and a ten per cent. call paid upon them. The subscribed stock now amounts to $1,750,000, mostly in good hands. The depositors have this as a security, besides all the other assets of the company. The expenses of management are kept at a low point and the earnings are in good proportion.

The Central Canada Loan and Savings Company shows a decided increase in earnings. While dividing six per cent. among shareholders, it adds $8,000 to Reserve and prudently places $16,315 to Contingent Fund. The invested funds now exceed $3,000,000. From the president's address we learn that the overdue interest was at the end of December a trifle over one per cent. on the amount invested, and a good deal of this has been since paid. The suggestion is made that as the borrowings are now close to the company's limit, either new stock shall be issued or that partly paid stock shall be paid in full. Resolutions authorizing such steps are proposed.

The report of the Ontario Industrial Loan Company admits a depression in the real estate market, and an "over production of dwelling houses" in the city, but expresses confidence that this will prove but temporary. Meanwhile we think the company has done well to show earnings sufficient to pay seven per cent. dividend and $10,000 more. There is a Reserve Fund of $190,000 upon a paid capital of $314,000, and $5,000 at Contingent Fund. The directors are prudently developing and improving their present possessions, rather than seeking new investments.

THE A. O. U. WORKMEN.

The annual session of the Ontario Grand Lodge of this Order took place at Ottawa last week. The question of separation of the Ontario brethren from all connection with those of the United States has been agitated in the lodges of the Province for some months past, and that subject caused a rather lively discussion at Ottawa. The trouble is that while the Order is young in Canada, it is growing old in some of the State jurisdictions, and Ontario is being annually called upon to contribute to their relief funds. The Supreme Lodge, whose next session is to be held in June at Helena, Montana, fixes a maximum assessment for each State and Province. When any such jurisdiction has called for the prescribed number of dollars, in any one year, and there are death claims still unsatisfied, the relief board of the Supreme Lodge holds a meeting and levies an extra assessment upon every member of the Order, in or out of that State or Province, to afford the necessary relief. The Order had its origin in Pennsylvania, and soon spread to the contiguous States of Ohio, New York, Kentucky and Tennessee, and consequently the members in those jurisdictions are now getting well on in years. It has been found impossible to obtain many new members in those lodges, except among elderly people, because of the heavy assessments.

While Ontario has come through the year 1891 with only $13 of assessments for $2,000 (plus the usual expenses, lodge dues, fees, fines, per capita, and relief call, local and general), the Ohio brethren had death losses calling for about four times as much. They made 24 assessments of $1 each, which was their prescribed maximum, and thus paid 42, out of the total of 88 death claims. For the other 46 they get a relief pull of $86,895 upon the brethren at large. In the previous year Ohio was also relieved by a bolus of $53,838, which shows that the difficulty is growing worse and worse. In Kentucky also the relief granted the previous year (1890) was $22,445, and this year nothing less than $40,985 fills the bill. After making their maximum (24) calls upon their own members, only 18 death claims were thus provided for, the membership being only about 1,500, leaving 22 to fall upon the brethren at large. Out of $80,000 of death losses, $37,386 was raised at home, and $40,985 from abroad. In Tennessee, after collecting the 24 assessments, only 20 death claims were covered, and 14 others had to be met from the relief boards' funds, costing $22,698. This is a little better than the previous year, when that little State, with its decreasing membership of about 1,800 persons, was helped by a solid lump of $30,778 from abroad. Next comes the long-titled "Grand Lodge of Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona," whose 22 assessments covered 48 claims, but there were 60 in all, and $29,295 of the $120,000 had to come from abroad. So also with Nevada, which stood up manfully enough to its prescribed 23 assessments, and got a balance of $4,560 from the relief board.

The total of this general relief call is $174,324.36, while last year the amount was $413,794.16. Every member must this year pay 65 cents for relief, while last year it was $1.70. But in addition to the 65 cents to be paid this month for last year's relief of those elderly grand lodges, there is to be an "advance relief call" of $1 from every member, on the first day of July next, so as to have the money in the hands of the relief board, next time, in advance. These two 1892 calls will together amount to over $40,000, or about the same as was paid last year by Ontario, in addition to paying its own losses. Against this so-called imposition of the more loosely-conducted American grand lodges, many of the brethren in Ontario are protesting loudly, and demanding separation. But really this annual Relief Call is the key-stone of the structure. If the eight grand lodges which got $413,794.16 of relief towards their 1890 losses, and the five which got $174,324.36 this year, had been left to themselves, several of them would have thrown up the sponge, and the A. O. U. W. in those States would have been merely a bitter memory of the past. That is just what happened the United Order of Foresters in the United States when Dr. Oronhyatekha withdrew from it with his Canadian friends, and set up a separate Order in Ontario, in opposition to it. All the same, it is going to take a great heap of money to relieve the wants of so many aged grand lodges, and provide for the last thousand men in Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, &c., where, as we have said, no more young men can now be expected to unite with the Order and pay $24 a year, plus so many other fees and dues and calls of one kind and another, incident to lodge attendance.

The following table gives a summary of the different relief calls, including the extra one of $1 in July next, and Ontario's approximate contributions thereto:—

Year.	No. of Call.	Total amount called for.	Ontario's portion.
1881......	1.....	$ 8,716 70	$ 321 45
1882......	2.....	50,645 00	2,408 00
1883......	3.....	11,987 05	670 70
1884......	4.....	57,647 73	3,409 35
1885......	5.....	61,500 00	3,945 50
1886......	6.....	78,266 40	5,000 00
1887......	7.....	18,914 19	1,450 00
1888......	8.....	105,014 00	10,000 00
1889......	9.....	91,563 36	7,200 00
1890......	10.....	30,000 00	2,890 40
1891......	11.....	413,794 16	40,000 00
1892....	12.....	174,324 36	15,000 00
	13.....	280,000 00	25,000 00

BANKERS AT DINNER.

The recent dinner, given at the Toronto Club, by Mr. Byron E. Walker, chairman of the Bankers' Section of the Toronto Board of Trade, to business men of the city, prominent in connection with banking or in other directions, was a very delightful affair. Some eighty or ninety gentlemen sat down, Mr. Walker occupying the chair, with Sir Casimir Gzowski on his right and Hon. Frank Smith on his left, Messrs. R. H. Bethune and J. L. Brodie, the vice chairs. The toasts were few, and the host showed good taste and a happy brevity in their introduction. Hon. Frank Smith and Mr. D'Alton McCarthy responded to the toast of the Dominion Parliament. In his own droll way Mr. Edward Gurney replied to the toast of the Merchants and Manufacturers of Toronto, and to the same toast Mr. J. Short McMaster made a very earnest response. It was an unhappy coincidence that either personal illness or serious illness in the household compelled the absence of the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. H. N. Baird, and of the first and second vice-presidents, Mr. Hugh Blain and Mr. S. F. McKinnon. In the circumstances the toast of the Toronto Board of Trade was responded to by Messrs. D. R. Wilkie and G. M. Rose. To the toast of Our Railways responses were made by Messrs. Edmund Wragge and Thomas Tait, the latter gentleman making quite a lively and effective speech. In response to the toast of Banking, Mr. Bethune replied briefly and in a humorous vein, and was succeeded by Mr. J. L. Brodie, who made one of the most appropriate and interesting addresses of the evening. We feel