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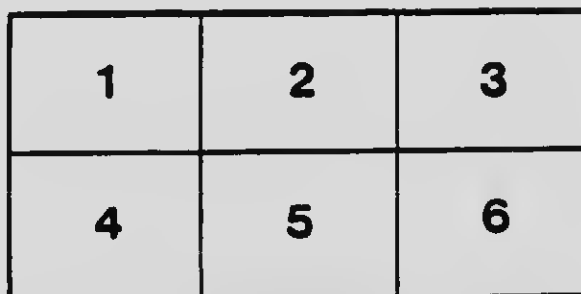
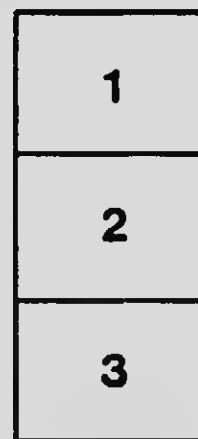
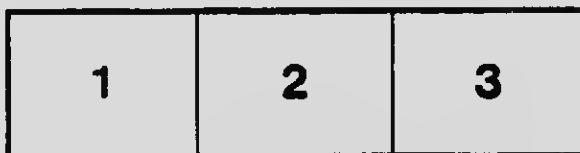
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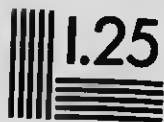
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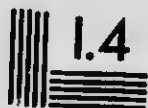
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# Odd Fellowship

WHAT IT IS  
WHAT IT HAS DONE  
WHAT IT IS DOING  
WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN IT



"To thine own self be true; and it must  
follow, as the night the day, thou canst  
not then be false to any man." ❖❖

## FOURTH EDITION

Compiled and issued under the direction of the Grand  
Lodge of Ontario by

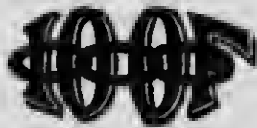
J. B. KING - - GRAND SECRETARY

NOVEMBER, 1907.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

# ODD FELLOWSHIP

WHAT IT IS  
WHAT IT HAS DONE  
WHAT IT IS DOING  
WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN IT



"To thine own self be true; and it must follow, as  
the night the day, thou canst not then be false  
to any man."

FOURTH EDITION

Compiled and issued under the direction of the  
Grand Lodge of Ontario by

J. B. KING . . . GRAND SECRETARY

NOVEMBER, 1907

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TORONTO:  
INDEPENDENT ODD FELLOW PRINT  
1907

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1907

*"To thine own self be true; and it must follow,  
as the night the day, thou canst not then be  
false to any man."*

## ODD FELLOWSHIP

**WHAT IT IS**

**WHAT IT HAS DONE**

**WHAT IT IS DOING**

**WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN IT**

*"A cause worthy the noblest aspirations of men;  
a cause which it is equally our duty to advo-  
cate, as it is our pleasure to pursue and has  
been our pride to have sustained with all our  
might from our early years."... Ridgely.*

### ITS CREED.

**O**DD FELLOWSHIP, while it is free from any thing of a sectarian character, has always held belief in a Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, as a cardinal principle; and has maintained the Fatherhood of God as a doctrine of equal importance with the doctrine of the Brotherhood of Man. Concerning the qualities and attributes of the Divine Father, it has never undertaken to pronounce with authority; nor does it question the moral character and good citizenship of those who declare that they have no belief in a Supreme Being. It simply exercises the right of all voluntary associations to prescribe the qualifications



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for membership in its own circle. It has always insisted, and will insist, that belief in a Supreme Being is absolutely necessary to attain or retain a place within its ranks. No one should offer himself for membership in our Order who has not this belief; no one should be accepted without it; and no member who loses faith in such a Supreme Being can honestly and consistently remain with us.

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**T**HE Independent Order of Odd Fellows is an organization having for its object the elevation of mankind, morally, intellectually, socially, and physically, recognizing man's individual helplessness and great need of co-operation in all the affairs of life. It requires its members to aid, assist, and protect each other, to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and protect the widow and orphan. It teaches the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man; it strives to break down the artificial barriers that separate man from his fellowman, and places all upon an equality, as members of one great family.

It opposes all forms of vice and immorality, teaches temperance in all things, and strives to lead men to the cultivation of

brotherly love and human sympathy ; and it strives to eradicate the besetting sin of selfishness by teaching its members the value and necessity of mutual helpfulness. While the Order exerts a powerful moral and educational influence, which prevents much unnecessary suffering and distress, it also possesses an admirable system for the dispensing of material aid to its members in times of sickness, distress, or difficulty. When an Odd Fellow in good standing is prostrated by sickness his brethren are compelled to visit and care for him ; to watch by his bedside when required, and to relieve his necessities; and the lodge of which he is a member pays him each week regularly a sum of money as "sick benefits." Upon the death of a member his brethren follow his remains to their last resting-place and give them decent burial, and his lodge pays to his widow a sum of money as a "funeral benefit," and the widow and orphans become the object of its special care. This material aid in sickness or distress the Odd Fellow in good standing is always sure to receive, whether at home or abroad.

The protecting arm of the Order is extended all over the land, and it is almost impossible to get beyond its reach. Thus wherever one may go he is sure to find friends who stand ready to assist him in

time of need. In dealing with the benefits of Odd Fellowship its social and educational features must not be overlooked.

To the young man entering upon life's active work Odd Fellowship presents many advantages.

Its teachings and the influence of Lodge associations cannot fail to encourage right principles, and so assist in moulding that most important of all assets—character.

The tendency of such teaching and association is to uproot selfishness, one of the worst forces in society, and to instil consideration for others, which culminates in mutual assistance.

The experience gained from a business standpoint in passing through the chairs trains the young man to think upon his feet and assists him to ascend the ladder of fame.

To be in good standing, and entitled to sick and funeral benefits, is to have lodge dues regularly and promptly paid. The financial side of Odd Fellowship requires that each member shall contribute to the funds from which all benefits are paid, and thus to be in "good standing" is a prerequisite to be entitled to participate in those funds should sickness or misfortune overtake him.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was established on this continent in 1819, at Baltimore, Maryland, and was for some years largely a social convivial club. Its possibilities as a reforming society soon became apparent, and gradually its social practices at its lodge and other meetings were changed, and the days of conviviality at lodge meetings are now gone forever, and the careful mother may safely allow her son or daughter to join the Order.

Viewing Odd Fellowship from the present, the past is no longer a dream or a vision but a grand reality. Grateful for its successes, constant in its devotions to the primary principles of its organization, alive to the questions of the hour, this noble Order with its unlimited foliage offers protection to the oppressed, comfort to the sick, succor to the weak, light to the blind; relief to the distressed, love to the faithful, friendship to the living, and justice to its dead, and is daily extending its manifold branches. Touching as with magic wand the tenderest of human ties, it offers truth as an easy solution for all difficulties; it stands for right against might, with love against hate, with hope against despondency and despair, instructing the young to venerate the old, and inculcating that divine doctrine, that as man came from

a common parent, he is bound to own those ties which bind him to his fellow man.

Its Subordinate and Rebekah Lodges and Encampments are to be found in every city, town and village on this continent where the Divine principle—Fraternity—has found an abiding place in the hearts of the people. These branches have an annual revenue of over \$15,168,307.90, and disburse in sick benefits and relief nearly \$5,000,000 yearly, amounting in round figures to \$13,000 for each day of the year.

In the Province of Ontario there are now over 36,000 members, the annual revenue being about \$377,697.29, and the expenditure for relief and charity \$118,516.75, or \$324.86 per day.

The Order is composed of :

1. Supreme Grand Lodge.
2. Grand Lodges.
3. Subordinate Lodges.
4. Subordinate Encampments.
5. Cantons of Patriarchs Militant.
6. Rebekah Lodges.

The Subordinate Lodge is the foundation and ground floor of the edifice of Old Fellowship.

Membership in a Subordinate Lodge is essential to obtaining and retaining mem-

bership in the Patriarchal Branch of the Order, and for Brothers in the Rebekah Branch.

The Subordinate Lodges, of which there are 340 in Ontario, are governed by a wise and carefully prepared Constitution, under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, which is a purely representative body, holding its meetings annually in August of each year.

While all legislation for the government of the Subordinate Lodges is enacted by the Grand Lodge, each Subordinate Lodge administers its own finances under wise restrictions of the Grand Lodge.

There are no high salaried officers in Odd Fellowship. The only paid officer is the Grand Secretary; the labors of the Grand Master, the executive head of the Order, are performed voluntarily and without remuneration or reward, other than the honors and the satisfaction which follow self-sacrifice for the well-being of others.

Odd Fellowship employs no paid organizer, nor is there any percentage paid to any brother as an inducement for him to establish new lodges. The best efforts of every member to advance the interests of Odd Fellowship are freely made out of a pure desire to benefit humanity and to

hasten the time when the grand principles of the Order shall be the rule and guide of every life. In this labor of love every true Odd Fellow is engaged, his reward being the satisfaction of knowing that he has labored to leave the world and mankind better for his having lived.

Odd Fellowship is not a scheme for making money for any one, or many; the principle of self-government permeates the organization in every department.

Any free white male, of good moral character, twenty-one years of age, who is a believer in a Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, is eligible for membership in the Order, and may ask to be admitted into the Lodge nearest to his residence. Good health being a pre-requisite to membership he must pass a satisfactory medical examination, and the ballot. Any member of the Order may present his application.

The Subordinate Encampment is composed of members in good standing in their Subordinate Lodges, and who are known as Patriarchs. The Encampment confers three degrees, which teach sublime and moral lessons by the aid of an attractive and impressive ritual.

The Subordinate Encampments are

governed by the Grand Encampment of Ontario, which, like the Grand Lodge, is a representative body, and holds annual sessions in the month of August.

The Cantons of Patriarchs Militant are composed of members of the Subordinate Encampments.

This branch is a semi-military organization for display purposes. It has its own appropriate degrees and semi-military ceremonial, with suitable uniform and tactics, and is governed by a code of military regulations.

In all Lodges and Encampments there is what is styled the Visiting Committee, which visits all sick and afflicted members, and provides for their wants, being clothed with power to draw on the treasury for funds for that purpose, and to provide watchers and nurses when needed. When an Odd Fellow has knowledge of the sickness or distress of another Odd Fellow he is required to report the facts immediately to his Lodge, or its Visiting Committee, and the case reported is then immediately investigated, and all necessary relief promptly extended; and it is not extended as charity. The Odd Fellow in distress is not made to feel that he is an object of charity, but that he is the recipient of that which he has a



right to expect and demand from the Order as an Odd Fellow in good standing; and he has the assurance, also, that his distress will not be published to the world, or become food for gossip in the community.

In addition to the regular care of its sick and distressed members by the several subordinate lodges, there is located in almost every city in Ontario a Relief Board, which has the special care of visiting brothers who may be taken ill or who may, for the time, be under medical treatment in one of the hospitals or in private homes, and whose cases are reported to the local Relief Board. These relief boards take the place of the disabled brother's mother lodge, and if he be in good standing they pay him his weekly benefits, being reimbursed by his lodge at the close of the brother's illness. Thus an Odd Fellow, whether at home or abroad, is sure to receive every requisite attention and care, should sickness or misfortune overtake him.

This Society has grown, and continues to grow, very rapidly. It is found in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Germany, Australasia, Cuba, South America, the Sandwich Islands, Sweden, Denmark, France, and other foreign nations.

The supreme tribunal of the Order is composed of representatives from the several

Grand Lodges and Grand Encampments, and is presided over by an officer styled the Grand Sire, who is the highest official in the Order.

Ontario has given one Grand Sire to the Order in the person of Bro. Dr. Cl. T. Campbell, of London.

In explanation of the apparently high fees for initiations, degrees and dues in Odd Fellowship, in comparison with other societies, it may be said that they cover all charges and are intended to make ample provision for the permanence of the funds, out of which sick, funeral, nursing, and other benefits are paid to provide suitable Lodge rooms for the conduct of the business affairs of the several Lodges; the purchase of suitable paraphernalia for Lodge uses, and many other necessary expenses incident to the judicious management of such a vast benevolent society. The same law that regulates the ethics of everyday commercial life must apply to Friendly Societies. A trader cannot sell for less than he buys and remain long solvent, neither can a Friendly Society promise more than its dues will warrant and hope to do justice to its members in their old age. The trader may put off for a time the final crash, and the Society may by a continued influx of young lives, large rates of interest, and a

favorable sickness experience, keep on accumulating funds for an indefinite period, but the day of reckoning is no less sure to come, and when it does come it will press all the heavier from having been postponed.

#### INTEMPERANCE.

Our laws consider drunkenness as the vilest and most pernicious of all vices. The teachings of Odd Fellowship are decidedly in the direction of temperance, and no intoxicants of any kind are allowed in the lodge room, or in connection with any of its festivities or meetings. Nor is any bartender, saloon keeper, or professional gambler now permitted to join the Order. The Order considers that the drunkard, deprived of his reason, a God given faculty, lowers himself to the condition of the brute. He contracts ruinous engagements; neglects his business; squanders his property; abuses his health; fills his home with trouble; and, if not cut off by a premature death, is doomed to an old age comfortless and diseased.



#### REBEKAH DEGREE.

**T**HE Rebekah Degree is a separate organization, established for the purpose of enabling white women, who believe in a Supreme Intelligent Creator and

Ruler of the Universe, and who are of good moral character, to associate themselves with the benevolent work of the Order. Caring for the sick and comforting the distressed and bereaved is largely woman's mission, and the great desire of Odd Fellowship is to interest the wives, daughters, and lady friends of its members in this grand work, and thereby secure their valuable cooperation in a work that is more particularly woman's sphere. Rebekah Lodges are usually officered by women. There are in Ontario 75 Rebekah Lodges, having about 3,500 members, more than one-half of the number being women. The dramatized work of the Rebekah branch is a very interesting feature, and adds much to the attractiveness of this branch of the Order.

The wives, daughters, sisters and mothers of Odd Fellows in good standing and the daughters, sisters and mothers of deceased Odd Fellows who at the time of their death were members of the Order, as well as all unmarried white women of eighteen years of age, are eligible to membership in a Rebekah Lodge.

Exceptional advantages are offered women joining this Branch of the Order, as they are permitted to take insurance in the

**Odd Fellows' Relief Association at the same rates as brothers of Subordinate Lodges.**

The careful selection of all members is a sufficient guarantee that admission to the Order will be rigidly guarded.

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## **ODD FELLOWS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION.**

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**A**N auxiliary of the Order, and working in a friendly connection with the Grand Lodge, is the Odd Fellows' Relief Association, the only friendly insurance society having recognition of the Order in Canada.

Members of the I.O.O.F., who desire membership in the Association, can, if under 35 years of age, pass into the Association free of expense, if they make application therefor when they join the Lodge and use the same medical examination within thirty days from the time it is written.

There is an agency of the Association in every Lodge, and the agent will be glad to give the initiate all the information he could desire with regard to the Association.

The Odd Fellows' Relief Association issues certificates for \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500, and \$2,000. It pays its benefits as soon as the claims mature. It pays also disability benefits when its members are incapacitated by total blindness, loss of arms or legs, or spinal injury from external violence.

An actuary, who reported upon its financial affairs, has this to say of the Association: "It is a pleasure for me to commend the past management of the Association as reflected in the data furnished to me. The low death rate evidences careful medical examination and medical supervision. Efficiency and economy have characterized the business conduct of affairs. I have made many investigations and none have disclosed a cleaner record than the O.F.R.A. in respect of such portions as have come under my observation. Good management and strict economy have done much toward the success of the Association."

That which makes the Association so attractive to young men is its disability feature. If he be insured for \$500 he is paid \$250 on furnishing proof of permanent disability. If insured for \$1,000 or over, the sum of \$500 is paid.

The rates, as revised in 1906, are due bi-monthly and payable on the 15th of

January, March, May, July, September and November as follows:

Age	\$500	\$1000	\$1500	\$2000	Age	\$500	1000	\$1500	\$2000
21	..87	..1 74	..2 61	..3 48	31	..1 05	..2 09	..3 14	..4 18
22	..88	..1 75	..2 63	..3 50	35	..1 08	..2 18	..3 24	..4 32
23	..88	..1 76	..2 64	..3 52	36	..1 12	..2 24	..3 36	..4 48
24	..90	..1 79	..2 69	..3 58	37	..1 16	..2 32	..3 48	..4 61
25	..90	..1 80	..2 70	..3 60	38	..1 21	..2 37	..3 71	..4 94
26	..91	..1 81	..2 72	..3 62	39	..1 30	..2 60	..3 90	..5 20
27	..91	..1 82	..2 73	..3 64	40	..1 38	..2 75	..4 13	..5 60
28	..92	..1 81	..2 76	..3 68	41	..1 46	..2 92	..4 38	..5 84
29	..93	..1 86	..2 79	..3 72	42	..1 58	..3 15	..1 73	..6 30
30	..95	..1 90	..2 85	..3 80	43	..1 71	..3 42	..5 13	..6 84
31	..97	..1 93	..2 90	..3 86	44	..1 88	..3 76	..6 61	..7 52
32	..99	..1 97	..2 96	..3 94	45	..2 10	..4 19	..6 29	..8 38
33	..102	..2 04	..3 06	..1 08					

Those who are in the Hazardous and Extra-Hazardous classes pay 50c. and 75c. per call extra on due notice being given to the Secretary-Treasurer of the change from the ordinary class.

On June 30th, 1907, the membership of the Association was 21,382, and the Reserve Fund was over \$500,000.

The members of the Rebekah lodges are admissible to the Association on the same terms and conditions as members of the Subordinate lodges.

## WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE ORDER.

**A**DMITTED that the Order is all it is represented to be, and it is without doubt far more, it is then the bounden duty of every eligible man and woman to

unite with it, and help on the grand work it is doing in elevating the standard of morals as well as in solving the great social problems of the day. In this advanced age no man or woman should be a drone when there is so much for each one to do. Odd Fellowship is the pioneer of all fraternal benevolent societies, and surely no thinking person should be indifferent and neglect or refuse to take part in a work which must commend itself to every thinking person, nor stand aloof and allow all the humanitarian work to be done by others. Each should take his or her individual share of work and responsibility and do what they can to make the world better, else life is a miserable failure. The great mission of Odd Fellowship is the elevation of character, to make men and women better. No more noble aim or more worthy object could claim our attention. Grand Sire Conway, speaking of character, says: "The question of character is one of the most important with which we have to deal, it is in a large measure, it ought to be in a full measure, the motive power of the individual." Taking this for granted and that the influence of Odd Fellowship is to uplift the individual is one of the very best reasons why "you should join the Order." Who to-day dare say what good Odd Fellowship has done, how many homes have been made happier, how many lives



have been made brighter because of the gracious influence the Order has exercised and which has been instrumental in saving the husband and father from sins and vices which, but for it, he might have fallen into; what good has been wrought by its constant fight with that greatest of all sins, selfishness, what vast sums of money have been contributed, and unwearying attention to sick and distressed brothers has been given, to make the name Odd Fellow a pleasant household word! How many almost broken-hearted widows and their helpless children have been succored in the hour of their greatest need? Are not these sufficient answers to the question, "Why you should join it?" to cause you to say I will investigate, and if these things be true then I will manfully resolve to join the Order and do what I can to help on such noble work. The millions of money which the Order has been instrumental in disbursing will always have its true commercial value, but these will all count but as "trifles light as air" when in the last great day they will be considered alongside of the greater blessings it has conferred in relieving distress, and when we shall hear the words, "Inasmuch as ye have done these things to the least of these my brethren, ye have done them unto me."

Recently the crowning feature of the grand work of Odd Fellowship has been

successfully established in our fair Province, viz., a Home for aged brothers and widows of brothers as well as for orphan children of brothers. A home in every sense of the word where those who have passed the allotted age and are in need of a home fire-side may find it, with food, shelter and peaceful rest for their declining days.

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### LODGES—HOW INSTITUTED.

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**A** LODGE of this Order may be instituted in any locality, provided that a reasonable assurance is given of its success and permanency. The Charter costs \$30.00 and the necessary books and stationery about \$25.00, in all \$55.00.

The application for a Charter must be accompanied by the Charter fee \$30.00, and should whenever at all practicable be sent through the District Deputy of the District in which the lodge is to be located, or it may be sent to the Grand Secretary direct. Five of the applicants for the charter must have unexpired withdrawal Cards, though those brothers who have Grand Lodge cards, expired withdrawal cards or dismissal certificates, may join in the application, and there should also be a sufficient number of new applicants for membership on the open-

ing night to make a start with at least twenty members. Full particulars as to location, proposed membership, etc., should always accompany the application for a Charter, to enable the Grand Master to decide promptly and intelligently.

When it is deemed advisable by the Grand Master, he, or his duly commissioned deputy, may initiate and confer the degrees upon a sufficient number of the applicants for a charter to constitute a new Lodge.

Every candidate for membership in the Order is required to pass a medical examination, as well as to measure up to the standard of morality laid down by the laws of the Order before he can become a member.

The sum of \$2.00 must accompany the proposition, and the balance of the admission fee must be paid on the evening of initiation. The minimum fee for the degrees, three in number, viz., "Friendship," "Brotherly Love" and "Truth," is \$6.00 and the degrees may be taken at the desire of the member, but until a member has received all three degrees he is not eligible to hold office or take part in the regular work of the lodge, nor is he entitled to the full sick benefits paid by the lodge. Each lodge may fix its rate of quarterly dues, the minimum dues being \$1.50 per quarter, out of which contributions the weekly sick and other benefits, as also the current expenses necessary to conduct the lodge, are paid.

# STATE OF THE ORDER

ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1906, AND RESULTS OF THE  
YEAR, AS SHOWN BY THE SECRETARY OF THE  
SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE.

Sovereign Grand Lodge.....	1
Independent Grand Lodges (German Empire, Australia, Denmark and Switzerland) .....	6
Grand Lodges .....	68
Grand Encampments .....	56
Subordinate Lodges.....	15,687
Subordinate Encampments .....	3,375
Rebekah Lodges.....	7,770

## YEAR 1906.

Lodge Initiations .....	110,888
Encampment Initiations.....	19,114
Lodge Members .....	1,302,310
Encampment Members.....	193,846
Rebekah Members .....	535,951
Total Membership in the Order .....	1,709,533
Relief by Lodges .....	\$5,005,753.37
Relief by Encampments .....	265,617.72
Relief by Rebekah Lodges .....	67,808.35
Total Relief. ....	3,893,220.83
Revenue of Lodges .....	10,214,608.85
Revenue of Encampments .....	712,552.46
Revenue of Rebekah Lodges.....	626,743.95
Total Revenue .....	11,553,905.29

# STATISTICS OF THE ORDER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

FROM 1830 TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1906—76 YEARS.

Including Australasia, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands,  
Sweden and Switzerland.

Initiations in Subordinate Lodges . . .	3,197,676
Members relieved . . . . .	3,256,601
Widowed families relieved . . . . .	288,939
Members deceased . . . . .	320,577
Total Relief . . . . .	\$115,111,919.67
Total Revenue . . . . .	\$208,465,683.51

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## THE ORDER IN ONTARIO

1906

Number of Lodges, 31st July, 1907. .	333
Membership, 30th June, 1907. . . . .	36,585
Number of Brothers who received Sick Benefits in the year 1906. . .	3,093
Number of Week's Sickness . . . . .	23,826 2-7
Amount paid for Sick Benefits, 1906	\$ 65,834.19
Total Benefits and Relief, 1906. . . . .	118,516.75
Total Funds of Subordinate Lodges.	1,411,793.26

