

meet the requirements of the trade, most of the merchants and tradesmen having just previously laid in their Winter stock.

The Committee thought itself bound to visit each lot to enable itself to value the several properties destroyed by the fire; and it is only after having done so, and having collected information from all the best sources from which it could be derived, that they submit the following as a statement of the loss caused by the fire.

Forty-four Houses.	£25,500
Seventy large Stores and other buildings of less importance.	14,000
Value of Goods, Household Furniture, &c., burnt	12,880
	<hr/> £52,380

There was not a very large amount of the property destroyed covered by Insurance, from the comparatively short period since Insurance Companies have established Agencies here. But after having made the necessary enquiries on the subject, the Committee find the following to be the amount of Insurance:—

On the Houses, Buildings, &c.,	£9,100
On Goods, Furniture, &c.,	3,800
	<hr/>
Total amount of Insurance,	£12,900

That amount would be of great avail to the sufferers in rebuilding their properties if they could apply it to that purpose, but apart from the fact that almost all the sufferers had no other property but that which was destroyed, many of them had to hand over the amount of their insurance money to their creditors in payment of advances of goods previously made, while the greater part of the others will be forced to use it to re-establish themselves in business so as to maintain themselves and families, their credit, if not wholly mortgaged by their losses, being greatly injured. It is thus impossible to rely upon the individual resources of these persons to rebuild that part of the Town, which however is the most important and the most adapted by its position for the purposes of commerce and trade. The fire has already caused house rents to rise considerably, as well as the price of materials and labour; and the demand for houses and shops in proper positions, by the sufferers, is so great, that they will not be able to procure them even by paying very high rents.

The necessity of rebuilding the burnt part of the Town is thus doubly felt, both for the sufferers and for the interest of the Trade in general of the Town, but taking into account the want of capitalists here, from whom money could be obtained, especially at low rates of interest, it will be impossible to accomplish it without exterior assistance, and without such assistance most of the proprietors of building lots rendered vacant, will be forced to sell the proper-