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On a May 25th, the city of St. John, N.B., was again visited by fire, which destroyed some 200 buildings in the north end of the city known as Indiantown, and left one thousand persons homeless. The burned district consisted principally of wooden buildings occupied by workmen connected with the saw mills and other industries of the city. There was a stiff breeze blowing at the time, which carried the sparks in all directions, resulting in the fire spreading to such a degree as to make it impossible for the firemen to check its progress. It will be remembered that this is the second great conflagration which has visited this city within the last quarter of a century. The important lesson which this occurrence seems to emphasize is the necessity of abolishing wood construction in the central districts of cities. The question of cost enters into the matter to a considerable extent, but in these days of electric railways those who cannot afford to build or rent brick houses must be content to live in the less populous districts, even at the expense of a little inconvenience.

An agreement has been reached between the Toronto Builders' Exchange, representing the Master Builders, and the Journeymen Carpenters, under which an increase of about five cents per hour will be granted the workmen in this line. It is gratifying to observe that in this adjustment the union principle that there shall be a minimum standard of wages for all workmen, irrespective of their qualifications, has been disregarded. On the contrary, the truer principle is recognized that workmen differ widely in ability, and the remuneration for their services should therefore vary in like proportion. The new scale of wages will range from 22½ cents to 27½ cents per hour, according to the ability of the workman. The Exchange has now under consideration a request from the Journeyman Plasterers for a slight