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Insurance no Bonanza. At the recent meeting of the U.S. National Board of Fire Underwriters, President Sheldon stated that in the last five years 62 joint stock fire insurance companies have retired or failed. He gave the following figures as showing the experience of all joint stock fire and marine companies reporting to the New York State Insurance Department for 1901:

Premiums received.....	\$163,526,207	
Premiums uncollected, increase.....	1,986,273	
Losses paid.....	3,432,957	\$96,363,508
Outstanding Losses, increase.....	11,359,193	
Unearned Premiums, increase.....	72,565	
All other claims, increase.....	61,239,686	
Actual expenses paid.....	6,955,429	
Loss for the year, 4 25-100 per cent. of premium received.....		
Totals.....	\$172,467,909	\$172,467,909

The losses in 1901 exceeded the premiums received by 4.25 per cent. For the last ten years, 1892 to 1901, the returns were as below:

Premiums received.....	\$1,324,379,058	
Premiums uncollected, increase.....	9,501,581	
Losses paid.....		\$798,012,800
Increase in liabilities during the period (outstanding losses, unearned premiums and all other claims).....		43,353,719
Actual expenses paid.....		487,680,325
Outgo.....		\$1,329,046,844
Profit for the period, 37-100 per cent. of premiums received.....		4,833,795
Totals.....	\$1,333,880,639	\$1,333,880,639

For ten years, 1901 included, the fire and marine business of the companies reporting to the N. Y. Insurance Department, the magnitude of which is shown by the previous received having amounted to an average of \$132,437,905 per annum, only carried an average yearly profit of \$483,379, which is equal to 36½ parts of 1 per cent. The companies had a revenue from investments which is not included in above data. Investment returns are not business profits.

Australian Trade Figures. Great interest is excited over the working out of the fiscal policy of the Australian Commonwealth. The Protection and Free Trade controversy, which is somewhat stale on this continent, is kept up in Australia with considerable liveliness. From late advices we find the imports and exports of three of the provinces to have been as follows last year:—

	1901.	1900.
	\$	\$
Victoria, imports.....	94,400,100	91,509,050
“ exports.....	93,230,400	87,112,700
Queensland, imports.....	30,353,530	35,403,360
“ exports.....	43,055,200	45,339,875
Tasmania, imports.....	9,847,885	10,368,230
“ exports.....	14,083,280	13,053,085
Totals, imports.....	134,601,515	137,280,690
“ exports.....	150,368,880	145,505,660

The Commonwealth had a good year in 1901, and prosperity is being generally enjoyed. Although Australia is so rich it takes \$10,000,000 yearly to pay the interest on public and private indebtedness to London.

Annual Wheat Consumption. The consumption of wheat per head in a moderate climate averages from 4½ to 5 bushels yearly. Multiplying the entire population of a country by 5 gives the number of bushels of wheat required for home consumption in one year, if this total is deducted from the season's yield of wheat the balance left will represent the amount for exportation. Canada consumes about 27,000,000 bushels of wheat yearly, or, 5½ million barrels of flour. A “rough and ready” rule, which is, however, nearly correct, is, a barrel of flour to each head of the population yearly.