revenue return, however, shows a much larger decrease in the postal receipts, both gross and net, as the following table exhibits, giving a comparison of the gross and net revenue in a series of years:—

Year.	Gross postal revenue.	Deductions.	Net Revenue.
	$	$	$
1899..............	4,325,431	1,142,500	3,182,930
1898..............	4,686,649	1,158,840	3,527,809
1897..............	4,311,243	1,108,304	3,202,938
1896..............	4,005,8[illegible]0	1,041,876	2,964,014
1895..............	3,815,455	1,022,666	2,792,789

The decrease in net revenue in 1899 below 1898 by $344,879, which is $229,076 more than is accounted for by the reduced postage, is not explained in the Report. The newspaper postage, which was first imposed on January 1st, 1899, realized only $22,159 in the half-year. The equity of this is seriously questioned, and its economic results are certainly of doubtful value. We miss several statistical tables from the 1899 Report which added much value to previous ones as records of the progressive development of Canada, shown by the growth of its corespondence. We beg to suggest to Mr. Mulock that this defect be remedied by a supplementary return, as it is not desirable to make a break in these annual comparative tables. On the whole the Postmaster-General has reason to regard the results of the reforms in, and developments of the postal service with much satisfaction.

THE TWO HULLS.

Early in March, the people of Hull, England, were aroused to the necessity of taking some extra precautions to guard against the frequent conflagrations caused by the stacking of timber in enormous piles without any covering thereto. To enable Canadians to estimate what is thought in England of timber yard fires, and the extreme danger therefrom, we quote the following article from "The Globe" (London, Eng.), of March 10th.

Whenever the Fire Brigade is called to a timber yard conflagration, the men instinctively make their account with exceptionally hard work. It is not only the enormous difficulty of extinguishing the fiercely burning mass of highly inflammable materials, but the whole surrounding area has to be safeguarded from flying sparks. Yet, though the danger is so great and so palpable, timber yards are no better protected than when they first came into being. The contents are still stacked in enormous piles, without even a tarpaulin covering, except in rare cases. Everything is left to chance and the chapter of accidents, with the result that we hear every now and then of some tremendous conflagrations, involving great loss of property and no small risk to human life. At Hull, a great centre of the timber industry, all the leading firms engaged in it have just appointed a committee to report on the best means of minimising the risk of fire. But some half-dozen conflagrations in quick succession were needed to convince the local mind that something must be done if the town was to be safeguarded from wholesale destruction. The high rates charged for insuring timber yards might have some effect if graduated in proportion to the precautions adopted by the proprietors. But they fall with equal weight on the careless and the careful, and as precautionary measures necessarily involve expense, they are generally dispensed with as profitless. In all probability the insurance offices would be able to reduce their rates on this description of property if the trade collectively adopted methods of diminishing fir risks.

Hull in Canada has the same story to tell.

PRESENTATION TO MR. ALEX. STEWART.

The above gentleman, who recently severed his connection with the Guardian Fire Insurance Company as inspector to accept the resident agency in Montreal of the Lancashire Insurance Company, was made the recipient, on Tuesday last, of a very handsome sterling silver tea service, accompanied by an address, from his old colleagues in the Guardian.

The address was read by the manager, Mr. E. P. Heaton, and was as follows:—

Your colleagues in the service of the Guardian Fire & Life Assurance Company (Limited) are desirous that, in severing your connection with that office, and with them as fellow-laborers, the opportunity should not be lost of expressing to you the friendly feelings they one and all have for you, nor would they like you to pass out of their midst without the expression of their sincere wish and desire that good fortune may attend you in the new sphere of labor to which you are going. As colleagues we have worked together in peace and harmony; your happy disposition and invariable good nature have set the ideal of good fellowship, which we have not been slow to follow or emulate, and now as you leave us we have the satisfaction of looking back upon a period of mutual assistance and co-operation unmarred by discord, jealousy or petty strife. It is, therefore, no wonder that in parting with you we feel that we are losing from our number one who has been friendly for friendship sake, and whose loss we, therefore, the more greatly deplore.

We ask your acceptance of the acompanying gift to remind you of our high esteem, and as a pledge of our permanent affection and regard.

MR. FACKLER'S PRACTICAL SYMPATHY.—Mr. David Fackler, the consulting actuary, of New York, in forwarding to THE CHRONICLE the sum of one hundred dollars for the fund in aid of the Ottawa and Hull sufferers, writes:—"Having had social connections with Canada during nearly all my life, and business relations for a quarter of a century, I take a deep interest in all Canadian matters, and sympathize particularly with the people of Ottawa, as I have some connections residing there, who, I am glad to learn, have not suffered from the catastrophe." Mr. Fackler's sympathy with suffering assumes a shape quite in keeping with his thoughtful and generous disposition.