

for further consideration, but enough has been done by the city authorities to show their desire to meet all reasonable requirements, and it is hoped the Board of Underwriters will see the expediency and justice of removing at once not a portion but the whole of the conflagration risk, and returning to the rates in force before February, 1895.

There has not yet been issued the returns for 1895, but those to the Dominion Government, made in 1894, show the following results :

Total Receipts for Fire premiums.....	\$6,711,369
Total Losses.....	\$4,591,149
Gains.....	2,120,220

6,711,369

or 33 per cent. to pay for interest and cost of management.

Since Confederation the account stands,

Premiums.....	\$112,024,078
Losses.....	77,804,225

Gains from which to pay interest on capital
and cost of management.....\$ 34,219,853

Unless the Fire Underwriters return to former rates they may feel assured much discontent will prevail, and profitable business will be driven to New York or elsewhere, where lower rates can be obtained, or there will spring up a large Municipal Fire Insurance Co. something like that outlined by Ald. Lamb, or like that now in operation in London, England, where the London School Board have, since 1885, themselves insured the whole of the school buildings under their charge, paying premiums into an insurance fund, which fund, now in its eleventh year, amounts to £30,000 stg., earning £1,000 per annum in interest, this being the amount saved after paying the total losses from fire which during the same period amounted to less than £2,000. Fire insurance in Toronto is largely a combination. The public do not love monopolies. Let the Fire Underwriters look these facts in the face and give that relief from excessive rates that both prudence and justice demand.

Dominion Bankruptcy Act.—Through a judicial decision which showed that under the Ontario Act for the equitable distribution of insolvent debtors estates it was possible for a debtor to assign a portion only of his estate. A deputation waited upon the Hon. Attorney-General to point out the mischief that might thus be caused and it is gratifying to know that immediately Sir Oliver Mowat's attention was called to the point, he promised to make the needful amendment, which has since been carried into effect and is now working very satisfactorily. But though the Ontario Act for the equitable distribution of insolvent debtors estates is much better than nothing, it is far from meeting the wants of the Commercial community. What is required, and what this Board has been in-