

These returns show how largely the imports have increased since the depression passed away that continued up to 1897. The revenue of this port this year was \$350,000, against \$255,416 in 1897; \$296,593, 1898; \$296,598, 1899; \$287,069, 1900; \$270,411, 1901, and \$325,033, in 1902. The returns are not yet complete, but up to 21st ult. the exports of wheat, corn and other cereals exceeded 1902 by over four millions of bushels, an increase of 20 per cent. This additional freight consisted of cargoes such as formerly went to New York, via Buffalo. This year they came in Canadian vessels to this port, and thence across the Atlantic. Although shipping business was large in volume, it is said to have been small in profits; but this is not a new cry. The exports of flour and farm products were larger than usual this year.

The above exhibit combined with the returns of the crops throughout Canada, and of the unprecedented exports of all classes of products, demonstrate that there must have been an exceptionally heavy accumulation of money this year, or what will be turned into money ere long.

As these funds go on increasing, there will spring up a growing demand for securities as soon as it is fully realized that there is no ground whatever for weakened confidence or distrust. There are, however, some persons so constituted, that, when the sky is cloudless and the barometer "Set Fair," they will not enjoy the out-door air for fear of rain. A wave of this irrational timidity has been passing over the investment market; it is now subsiding.

This week there will be about two millions of dollars paid out in bank dividends, a large portion of which will find its way to the stores to pay debts and buy Christmas goods. The stock market is rather quiet, but prices are firm, with an upward tendency.

**THE DISASTROUS FIRE AT THE OTTAWA COLLEGE**

Ottawa has again been the scene of a disastrous fire, the property burnt being the main building of Ottawa University. The loss caused is estimated at \$450,000. A lamentable feature was the loss of one life, and serious injury inflicted on seven sufferers, including several clergymen and students.

The building destroyed included the Arts' building, library, chapel and seminary. The buildings alone, now crumbling ruins, were valued according to the rector at \$300,000. The valuable equipment, including the library, had an estimated worth of \$200,000, making a total loss of half a million dollars.

In the university at the time of the fire were about 300 boarders, including 100 from the United States. All these were at breakfast, with the exception of a few, who having taken part in the entertainment the night before, had permission to sleep later than usual. These students had to make their escape by the upper windows.

Regarding the origin of the fire, the Rev. Dr. Emery said, in his opinion it started behind the stage in the academic hall. "A French play had been presented

the previous night, and some one may have thrown a match or cigar to one side. There was a lot of loose material lying about, and as the place was closed in, the fire probably smouldered all night. Once the flames overcame the smoke and burst out in the morning, they rapidly spread through the corridors and the damage was done."

Questioned regarding the reports of tardiness on the part of the brigade, Dr. Emery said: "I believe the firemen did the best they could."

The insurance, so far as can be ascertained up to date gross, and are, of course partially reinsured.

**NON-TARIFF COMPANIES.**

Scottish Union.....	\$30,000	Equity.....	\$10,000
North American.....	20,000	Anglo-Amer.....	10,000
Northern.....	20,000	Economical.....	5,000
Alliance.....	20,000	London Mutual.....	10,000
Western.....	5,000	Queen City.....	10,000
		Ottawa.....	10,000
	\$95,000		\$55,000

The above gives a total of \$150,000.

The lines mentioned as carried by the companies are gross, and are, of course, partially reinsured.

**EXHIBIT OF FIRE COMPANIES' DISBURSEMENTS.**

The following table shows the disbursements in the last thirty-one years of the fire companies in the United States, classified.

**DISBURSEMENTS OF FIRE COMPANIES FOR 31 YEARS, WITH**

Year.	PERCENTAGES.		Per cent
	Total Disbursements.	Fire Losses.	
1872.....	\$55,773,665	\$34,707,457	62.2
1873.....	57,368,833	31,630,759	55.1
1874.....	51,236,515	22,657,610	44.2
1875.....	53,276,934	24,076,605	45.1
1876.....	51,702,538	23,118,183	44.7
1877.....	50,072,162	22,582,535	45.1
1878.....	43,338,526	18,008,951	41.6
1879.....	45,894,818	20,501,794	44.7
1880.....	47,205,075	21,208,726	44.9
1881.....	51,198,597	23,497,843	45.9
1882.....	53,083,646	25,824,069	48.6
1883.....	50,047,072	28,858,214	48.9
1884.....	62,521,875	32,227,841	51.5
1885.....	64,631,383	32,312,619	50.0
1886.....	68,079,875	32,856,939	48.3
1887.....	71,211,138	37,052,055	52.1
1888.....	71,407,130	37,475,943	52.5
1889.....	77,765,395	41,808,065	53.8
1890.....	75,226,209	39,263,709	52.2
1891.....	81,612,595	45,495,467	55.7
1892.....	88,736,706	49,692,603	56.0
1893.....	95,978,605	55,746,543	58.1
1894.....	86,896,382	48,814,860	56.2
1895.....	83,788,662	44,335,229	52.9
1896.....	81,738,758	42,150,711	51.5
1897.....	117,815,303	61,058,251	51.8
1898.....	132,338,978	71,785,248	54.2
1899.....	151,478,847	86,251,689	56.9
1900.....	155,803,510	89,566,349	57.5
1901.....	164,395,667	93,431,176	56.9
1902.....	178,315,106	94,483,666	53.0
Totals.....	\$2,529,360,505	\$1,302,481,709	51.5