

Principal Exports.

Canned lobsters	\$507,084
Pease	144,951
Spruce wood	190,828
Field Implements	298,844
Apples	57,572
Asbestos	53,412
Undressed furs	79,792
Clover seed	20,779
Bicycles	10,743
Coal and other mineral	10,036
Square ash and elm	12,200

Further items of import were brushes, buttons, earthen and china ware, linen goods, cotton fabrics, jewellery, books and photographs, hats and bonnets, glass and glassware, drugs and dyes.

The other merchandise sent to France from Canada consisted of dried apples, canned or preserved fruits, drugs and chemicals, whiskey, wood-pulp, machinery and castings, dressed furs.

We do not know in what particular direction trade is expected to be fostered by this line of slow steamers. It is hardly likely to be in the way of exports, for twenty-four years has been needed to double our exports to France in 1880, which were \$812,000. As to aggregate trade, both Belgium and Germany have made greater relative progress in trade with Canada in the last six years than has France. Of course, Germany's trade fell off last year from the \$13,000,000 and \$14,000,000 of previous years to \$9,994,827; but Belgium has done a trade with us, inward and outward, of four, five and six millions a year since 1900. Our exports to her have been double what they were to France, while our purchases from her have averaged \$2,425,000 per annum for the last eight years.



LOSS OF LIFE BY FIRE.

It is astonishing how little heed the average man pays to losses of property by fire in so far as they do not affect himself. Numbers of persons, for example, are impressed by the enormous figures of the fire-waste at large on this continent, but so long as the Fire Fiend does not breathe his hot breath over Smith's dwelling, or Brown's factory, or Jones' office, neither Smith, Brown, nor Jones seems to think that he has any particular concern in the matter. Many a time we have heard persons say, "What devastation fire is making in the States: \$150,000,000 worth burned in a year! Thirteen millions in a month! More than three millions a week! It is dreadful." But these staring facts rarely lead the speaker to look over the fire-risk of his own premises—unless he is a manufacturer—or to see whether the fire tank of his village or the steam fire engine of his town are in constant order.

Would it cause people, we wonder, to take any more personal interest in the ravages of fire if we gave a list of deaths caused by fire or a comparison of the fire-loss of life (instead of the fire loss of property) with deaths otherwise caused? Here are some United States census figures which ought to make any one think. In the year 1900 there were more persons burned to death than drowned—more persons burned to death than died from scarlet fever—more persons burned to death than small-pox killed. And these three that we have named are generally considered fruitful causes of death. The comparative list stands thus:—

Persons burned to death	6,772
“ drowned	5,387
“ died from scarlet fever	6,333
“ “ “ rheumatism	5,067
“ “ “ small-pox	3,484
“ “ in railway accidents	6,930

This list of death losses by fire, embracing more than five hundred per month, ought to startle a community if the loss by fire of \$13,000,000 per month does not appear to disturb. "The Fire Proof Magazine," which gives this total of 6,772 deaths from fire in one year, says that the proportion of life loss averages, during the period, about evenly, a little under 9 per 100,000, but showing an increase from 5.5 in 1890 to that of 8.8 in 1900 per 100,000 of population. The figures for the following states and cities respectively are given: In Illinois, 315; in Chicago, 136, or 43 per cent. of the total. Indiana, 173; Indianapolis, 14 of the total. Michigan, 161; Detroit, 25 of the total. Minnesota, 100; Minneapolis, 14 of the total. St. Louis, 71; New Jersey, 188; New York State, 561; of which the city of New York contributed 342. Ohio, 289; Cleveland, 39; Cincinnati, 20; Pennsylvania, 641; Philadelphia, 142, and Pittsburg, 49; Virginia, 271; Iowa, 91; Wisconsin, 123; of which Milwaukee's quota was 25.

A statistician of humanitarian turn of mind could tell us, from estimates of the relative value of individuals to a community, how much such a holocaust of human life has cost the United States. But this is a low standard by which to measure waste of the ruin of plans and hopes of human skill and effort. The anguish of bereavement; the poverty and suffering caused by bread-winners' loss; the cessation of valuable labor in many fields gracious and benign—these are better standards of loss than dollars and cents when thinking of six or seven thousand persons needlessly burned to death.



ANCIENT ORDER UNITED WORKMEN.

The February number of "The Canadian Workman," published monthly at Orillia, criticizes some few things in our recent allusion to the inadequacy of the rates charged by the society it represents. In doing so the editor does not do himself justice in descanting sharply upon a thing of so little consequence as an error about the length of time since the Order seceded from the parent body in the States. We said, in passing, that it was about twenty years ago, whereas "about ten years ago" would have been chronologically more exact, for it was actually a little less than that long ago that the Society cut loose from outside help or interference. For want of better argument our critic wishes to make his readers think our whole effort to help him get his rates changed to a safer scale, was as wide of the mark as the "about twenty years," and therefore of no value! How much better for him to have quoted something useful from the article, and overlooked what might well have been let pass as a mere slip of the pen, as indeed it was, and not of any consequence whatever.

That there is to be an abandonment of the rates which the "Workman" has so long and zealously defended, by scissors and pen, is now openly avowed by the editor of that journal. He intimates not only that the rates will be raised at the next session of the Grand Lodge, but that they will go up with a snap. Our reasonable suggestion that the members