Discussion is going on in Toronto in reference to more stringent buildings' regulations, and it is deemed certain that the new warehouses built to replace those burnt, will be of a better type, as fire-proof conditions will be adopted. Toronto will also have far better fire protection as the result of the fire.

The silver lining to the cloud brought over Toronto by the conflagration, shines out in the marvellously hopeful spirit prevailing amongst the sufferers by the fire. They do not seem at all cast down, dispirited, or mournful over the calamity, but talk of nothing but rebuilding, restocking, extending, and working hard to recover lost ground and win new. Of such a class of merchants, Toronto, Canada, the Empire indeed may be proud; they are showing the dauntless spirit and enterprise which commands success.

TORONTO CONFLAGRATION, APRIL 19-20, 1904.

Total Loss Estimated at $13,500,000.
Total Loss to Insurance Companies Approximate, $8,750,000.

	Gross.	Net.
Canadian Companies.		
British America	$330,000	$230,000
Western, including National of Ireland.	400,000	250,000
Quebec	92,000	44,000
Mercantile	78,000	35,000
British Companies.		
Alliance	365,000	112,000
Atlas	260,000	185,000
Caledonian	200,000	100,000
Commercial Union	280,000	185,000
Guardian	165,000	75,000
Law Union & Crown	69,000	50,000
Liverpool and London and Globe	300,000	......
London and Lancashire	313,000	154,000
London Assurance	90,000	70,000
Manchester	100,000	90,000
National of Ireland (included in Western 125,000)		
North British	380,000	......
Northern	300,000	170,000
Norwich Union	225,000	120,000
Phœnix of London	245,000	165,000
Royal	773,000	310,000
Scottish Union & National	378,000	135,000
Sun	155,000	......
Union	180,000	......
American Companies.		
Ætna	190,000	100,000
Connecticut	81,500	50,000
Hartford	165,000	165,000
Home	300,000	175,000
Ins. Co. of North America	185,000	......
Phenix of Brooklyn	145,000	125,000
Phœnix of Hartford	72,000	71,000
Queen of America	270,000	160,000
Nontariff Offices.	Gross.	Net.
Anglo-American	$180,000	$120,000
Canadian Fire	85,000	60,000
Economical	60,000	35,000
Equity	85,000	50,000
Gore	55,000	50,000
Independent Underwriters	22,000	......
London Mutual	120,000	75,000
Merchants	40,000	32,000
Metropolitan	30,000	20,000
Monarch	10,000	10,000
Montreal Mutual	15,000	11,000
New England Mutual	125,000	......
Ottawa	110,000	75,000
Perth	40,000	30,000
Scott & Walmsley Group, including Queen City, Hand-in-Hand, Millers & Mfrs. & Fire Ins. Exchange	150,000	110,000
Standard Mutual	27,000	......
Traders	40,000	30,000
Traders Chicago	15,000	15,000
Waterloo Mutual	55,000	30,000
York Mutual	20,000	15,000
Colonial of New York	4,000	4,000
Globe and Rutgers	2,000	......
Indemnity Exchange of Chicago	10,000	10,000
North River of New York	10,000	10,000
Nassau of Brooklyn	3,750	......
Peter Cooper, Fire of New York	2,000	......
Senior Underwriter of New York	120,000	12,000
Other offices	100,000	......

THE MONTREAL CITY BILL.

SOME EXTRAORDINARY POWERS ASKED FOR BY THE CITY COUNCIL.

A NEW DEPARTURE IN MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION.

A Bill is now before the Legislature of Quebec suggesting some serious amendments to the excellent Charter of the city, which was consolidated a few years ago, and which was prepared by Commissioners appointed by the City Council for that purpose. This Charter was based on the result of past experience; every clause of it was most carefully considered, and the general interests of the city were safeguarded as far as possible. Under its provisions the city was recovering from the effects of past expenditures, more especially in connection with the expropriation craze, that is, the widening and extending of streets, and other public works of like nature, which were carried out in a most extravagant manner. The finances of the city, owing to the safeguards provided by the Charter, got into excellent condition within a very few years. Unfortunately, however, the "Charter Tinkering Craze" seemed to have taken hold of our city fathers, and certain amendments were obtained last year which opened up the door to further expropriations, and which will prove very costly to the ratepayers of Montreal. Let it be remembered that further borrowing means that there will be a less amount at the disposal of the city to be expended for ordinary administration, such as keeping our streets and sidewalks in order, etc., etc.

Under the consolidated Charter of (1897-99), the city's borrowing power was limited to 15 per cent. of the taxable property of the city, which was arbitrarily placed at $180,000,000, in order to consolidate the total debt, including all possible out-