

conditions are only local in extent. The general tone of advices is favorable. Sufficient rain has fallen throughout the country to keep grain in good shape. At several points the grain is turning yellow, and harvest will commence about the 20th. Good yield generally expected."

The last bulletin issued by the Territorial Department of Agriculture states that owing to the unusual amount of moisture in the ground last spring the area of wheat was considerably lessened, but the area of the oat crop is greatly increased in the eastern portion of the Territories. Latterly the weather has been dry and hot, affecting adversely crops on light lands, stubbles and poorly-farmed sections. Indications favor the idea that while a few districts will have yields approximating those of last year, the general yield of the Territories as regards wheat and oats will be below the average. There is a marked decrease in the area devoted to flax.

JULY FIRE WASTE.

The month just past shows a record which, in face of the enormous fire waste during the first half of the year, is, so to speak, a cause for gratification. That is to say, it points to a reduction in the loss compared with the month of July last year, as the following figures compiled by the New York Journal of Commerce will serve to show:

	1902.	1903.	1904.
January	\$15,032,800	\$13,166,350	\$21,790,200
February	21,010,500	16,090,800	90,051,000
March	12,056,600	9,907,650	11,212,150
April	13,894,600	13,549,000	23,623,000
May	14,866,000	16,366,800	15,221,400
June	10,245,350	14,684,350	10,646,700
July	10,028,000	12,838,600	11,923,200
Totals	\$97,133,850	\$96,593,550	\$184,457,650

Nevertheless, the total loss for the year 1904 up to the end of July has been nearly double of that during a similar period of last year.

MARINE INSURANCE ON THE LAKES.

The volume of marine insurance on the Great Lakes is not so great this year as last. In part this arises, of course, from the strike of the Masters' and Pilots' Association, which kept practically the whole grain and ore fleet of the lakes out of commission for the best part of two months this spring. During that time of detention the marine underwriters received only harbor rates on vessels and steamers; but for remainder of the season, say from 15th June onward, they are getting a fair aggregate of business. hull and cargo. Rates on both steel and wood hulls, sail or steam, have not gone lower, but are practically the same.

It is to be remembered that the transportation business on the lakes in both grain and ore is less than usual, certainly less than expected this season. A good deal of grain went forward by rail during the strike, and the possible cargo business of the American boats for the rest of the navigable season is lessened by just this much. The Canadian boats were

gainers by the strike, for while it lasted they were kept pretty steadily employed. But now the quantity of grain to come forward appears comparatively light. Thus far in the season but few losses have been suffered; indeed, perhaps no recent season has shown so little to complain of in this respect. Canadian hull risks go largely to the other side of the Atlantic. Indeed, lake business makes an agreeable contrast with St. Lawrence and Gulf marine business nowadays.

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Judging from present indications, the National Exhibition, now the chief looked-for event of the near future in Toronto, will have more attractions and be on a larger scale than ever. One part of the Fair which is to be made a special feature this year will be the Process Building, and there will be a much greater variety of goods shown than last year. It is the wish of the management to make a very thorough classification of the various sections so as to make each exhibit complete in itself. It is also worth noting that the Dog Show, the Horse Show, the Cat Show, the exhibit of poultry, and all the branches of live stock will be more fully represented than at any previous exhibition. Judges who are among the most famous in the world are coming from England and the United States for judging in this department, while every effort is being made by the leading stockmen of Ontario to produce exhibits of the highest class.

HALIFAX EXHIBITION.

Rather more than the usual interest is being taken in the Provincial Exhibition, to be held in Halifax from September 7th to 14th, inclusive. A new feature, which should be of value from an educational standpoint, will be a series of lectures on agricultural subjects which are to be delivered within the Farmers' Pavilion. Among the speakers will be Dr. James Fletcher, who will make an exhibit of grasses, and deliver addresses on the same; F. W. Hodgson, who will speak on live stock topics; A. P. Ketchen and William Smith, of Columbus, Ont. This new departure will be carried on under the joint auspices of the Nova Scotia Exhibition, the Dominion Department of Agriculture and the Maritime Stock Breeders' Association. The exhibition throughout will be strong in the usual features, although the early date on which it is held may render the agricultural and horticultural exhibits less complete than would have been the case later in the season.

The Halifax Board of Trade and the Nova Scotia branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association are pressing the claims of Halifax for the Dominion Exhibition for 1905. It is understood that the Boards of Trade throughout the Maritime Provinces will support Halifax in the matter, it being contended that the time has come when the Dominion grant of \$50,000 for this Exhibition should come to an eastern centre. The objections to holding a Dominion Exhibition so far away from the great centres of Canadian population and industry are apparent, and no doubt the Maritime Provinces will require to put up a stiff fight in order to capture the event.