

The following record of the great fire probably conveys all that is known to-day regarding the extent of the calamity:—

"At New Westminster to-day, Sept. 12th, on a wide open space, just beyond where the great fire stopped, a city of tents has arisen. Here the Provincial Government and Vancouver authorities have housed in tents lent them by the Militia Department, all homeless sufferers. Blankets by hundreds formed beds, and the burned out families seem to be as comfortable as possible, under the circumstances. There was no panic in the crowds of burned out and desolate people. A number of robberies took place during the fire. Johnson's boot store was entered while some of the stock was being taken out and about \$6,000 worth of goods stolen. The Chief of Police believes that the fire was started by a spark from a steamer which ignited Brackman & Kers' wharf. Already many merchants are starting to build stores and renew business. The Canadian Pacific Railway station and baggage room burned, but everything of value was saved. The insurance companies interested in the losses are: London Assurance Company, Commercial Assurance, Royal, London and Lancashire, Sun, North British and Mercantile, Liverpool and London and Globe, Union, American, Hartford of Connecticut, Aetna, Atlas, Alliance, Guardian, Manchester, Western of Toronto, Northern Insurance Company and Phoenix of London, Phoenix of Hartford, Lancashire Insurance Co. of North America, National, Scottish Union and National."

The amount of the losses sustained by the insurance companies must, at present, be a mere matter of conjecture. In many cases, the interested companies will be found to have reduced the amount placed in policies, on burned property, by re-insurance, in some cases, amounting to fifty per cent. of the nominal loss. Pending receipt of a revised statement of the actual insurance carried by the companies interested in this conflagration, we can only give approximate figures. The nominal interest of the companies is thus stated:—

Union.....	\$58,000	Royal.....	\$44,000
Guardian.....	16,700	Queen.....	7,000
Alliance.....	38,000	Atlas.....	31,000
N.B. & Mer.....	65,000	National.....	31,000
P. of Hartford.....	25,000	London Ass. \$175,000	} 85,000
Nov. Union.....	60,000	Reinsured in	
Western.....	20,000	Canada.....	\$90,000
Phoenix of England.....	75,000	L. L. & Globe.....	16,700
London & Lancashire.....	80,000	Com. Union (re insurance not given).....	107,000
Lancashire.....	20,000	Sun.....	18,000
B. America.....	25,000	Manchester.....	30,000

### FIRE RECORD.

Fire at Pabos, P. Q., on Sept. 13th, at King Bros., Lumber Merchants.—The following companies are interested:—

North British and Mercantile.....	\$10,000	} Estimated loss \$20,000
Phoenix of London.....	10,000	
Hartford.....	10,000	
Royal.....	8,000	
Imperial.....	5,000	
Lancashire.....	5,000	
Caledonian.....	5,000	
\$53,000		

### FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA FOR AUGUST, 1898 (ESTIMATED).

DATE.	LOCATION.	RISK.	TOTAL LOSS.	INSURANCE LOSS.
Aug. 3	Montreal.....	Nail Works.....	\$78,000	\$59,000
4	do.....	Saw Mill and Cement Works.....	25,000	18,000
2	Fraserville.....	Saw Mill (S.P.).....	5,000	1,000
7	Glencoe.....	Barns.....	1,200	1,000
7	Coaticook.....	Store.....	1,000	1,000
11	Lindsay.....	Barns.....	1,000	1,000
11	Oakwood.....	do.....	2,000	1,100
11	Salem.....	do.....	3,000	1,800
11	Mitchell.....	do.....	2,500	1,400
11	Ip. Logan.....	do.....	1,500	1,000
14	Madoc.....	Conflagration.....	50,000	25,000
13	Sherbrooke.....	Machine Shops.....	45,000	24,000
14	Chesley.....	Saw Mill (S.P.).....	1,000	1,000
13	Manitoulin.....	Steam Tug.....	8,000	3,000
14	Glen Miller.....	Paper Mills.....	17,000	10,000
6	Powassan.....	Saw Mill.....	5,000	2,000
10	Ip. Nelson.....	Barn.....	1,500	1,000
16	Cobourg.....	Town Hall.....	1,100	1,100
17	Belhaven.....	Barn.....	2,500	2,000
16	Victoria, B.C.....	Chemical Works.....	25,000	16,800
19	Vankleek Hill.....	Stores.....	20,000	12,000
22	Lakefield.....	Steamer.....	5,000	3,000
23	Thamesford.....	Flour Mills.....	35,000	10,000
23	Elmira.....	Hotel & Dw'gs.....	15,000	7,000
21	Georgetown.....	Barns.....	3,000	2,700
23	Waterford.....	do.....	2,600	1,100
24	Cobourg.....	Stables.....	1,000	1,000
26	St. Thomas.....	Handle Works & Pipe Factory.....	60,000	8,000
19	Crapaud, P.E.I.....	Store.....	3,000	2,600
30	London.....	Power House.....	12,600	11,000
28	Gananoque.....	Storehouse.....	30,000	14,000
24	Park Head.....	Saw Mill.....	2,000	1,700
28	Quebec.....	Tannery.....	8,000	5,000
30	Sandwich.....	Bakery.....	3,500	3,000
22	Lachute Mills.....	Stores.....	3,000	3,000
			\$482,000	\$263,300

Add 20 per cent. for unreported losses

and losses under \$1,000..... \$96,400

Totals..... \$578,400 \$315,900

### SUMMARY FOR CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1897, COMPARED WITH 1898.

	1897		1898.	
	Total Loss.	Ins. Loss.	Total Loss.	Ins. Loss.
For January.....	\$1,023,280	\$852,480	\$434,280	\$302,160
" February.....	876,960	377,160	960,240	531,360
" March.....	266,040	218,840	558,000	392,760
" April.....	414,840	336,600	411,960	265,080
" May.....	845,520	671,400	340,140	201,720
" June.....	239,400	155,040	351,480	243,240
" July.....	621,480	306,490	460,920	314,280
" August.....	333,000	277,440	578,400	315,900
Totals.....	\$4,621,120	\$3,195,400	\$4,954,420	\$2,665,560

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THE DUKE OF ARGYLL AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS.—The Duke of Argyll has written as follows to a correspondent: "Sir,—I am in the same position as the Commission. I have seen no plan that would not do more harm than good. In framing all laws we must think of the motives they will call into action; the good ones they may encourage, the bad ones they will tend to stimulate. Can we doubt that the prospect of pensions not due to any self-exertion will tend to destroy thrift and foresight in the wage-earning classes. Yours obediently, Argyll.