

buildings, warehouses, etc., were then dealt with, the work being on the same lines as before, with the addition that, in manufactories, useful service is frequently done in the way of cleaning and oiling machinery in order to minimize the effects of the fire.

The work of the Salvage Corps saved thousands of pounds worth of property from water-damage at the fire at Hyde Park Court on 17th April, 1899. He gave an account of a London church which was coated with cement, having had this covering cracked and broken by a fire. This led to the whole of the cement being peeled away, when it was found that it had covered up fine stone work. The result was almost a restoration of the church! We are indebted to the secretary of the Society for above synopsis of the address of Major Fox to whom a dinner was given at which Mr. Andrews, of the Scottish Union and National, presided, also a luncheon at which Mr. Robertson, of the Northern Assurance Co., took the chair.

FIRE LOSS, 1ST QUARTER, 1902.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of March, as compiled from the records of the "N.Y. Commercial Bulletin," shows a total loss of \$12,056,600. The following table will give comparisons by months:

	1902.	1901.	1900.
January.....	\$15,052,800	\$16,574,950	\$11,755,300
February.....	21,010,500	13,992,000	15,427,000
March.....	12,056,600	15,036,250	13,349,200
Totals.....	\$48,099,900	\$45,603,200	\$40,531,500

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The so-called Budget debate ended on 9th inst. The vote on the amendment of the Leader of the opposition was lost by a vote of 117 to 61, which is the usual majority of the Government. The amendment reads:—

"This House, regarding the operation of the present tariff as unsatisfactory, is of opinion that this country requires a declared policy of such adequate protection to its labour, agricultural products, manufactures and industries as will at all times secure the Canadian market for Canadians. And, while thus firmly maintaining the necessity of such protection to Canadian interests, this House affirms its belief in a policy of reciprocal trade preference within the Empire."

The House of Commons, Ottawa, is almost unanimously in favour of the principles laid down in above amendment, viz., protection to Canadian industries, and reciprocal trade preference with the Empire, but party tactics called for these principles being repudiated.

The Harbour Commissioners of this port have decided to accept the tender of Mr. J. F. Webber, of Buffalo, for a steel tank elevator of nearly a million bushels capacity, the cost to be \$604,000. The tender and plans have been passed upon and

approved by the chief engineer of the Department of Public Works. They have also been sanctioned by the Honourable Mr. Tarte, so the work of construction will be at once begun and a controversy brought to end which has seriously obstructed the progress of improvements needed in the Harbour.

The bequest of the late Cecil Rhodes to the University of Oxford of a sum sufficient to provide scholarships for American, German and Colonial students is the most remarkable gift to education on record. Mr. Rhodes believed it to be in the interests of the British Empire to have a number of the more intellectual citizens of the United States and of Germany brought into direct contact with, so as to share in the highest culture of England. By his bequest there will be two scholars from each American State and territory, five of German birth, and several from the Colonies maintained and educated at Oxford. The number of such students will probably be 100, who will each be allowed \$1,500 yearly, so that, on this scale, the yearly cost of this contingent will be \$150,000. The greatest wisdom and caution will have to be exercised in selecting those who are to be sent to Oxford. Great care also will be needed in guarding the bequest from being utilized to save rich Englishmen the expense of educating their sons, as millions of dollars have been perverted by the University authorities from the purpose of the original donors who left money to assist poor scholars, which has gone into the pockets of wealthy parents. Mr. Cecil Rhodes states his reason for this extraordinary bequest as follows:

"A good understanding between England, Germany and the United States will secure the peace of the world, and educational relations form the strongest tie." We trust the bequest will be so administered as to provide for a liberal contingent of students from Canada. Oxford had foreign students very early in its history and some distinguished scholars from continental countries adorn its list of graduates.

The Hon. Mr. Drummond, of the Legislative Council, Nova Scotia, has made an exposure of very serious errors in the Census. Two towns in the County of Pictou were shown by him to have each a population of 33 per cent. greater than what is given in the Census. The Mayor of Westville, N.S., complains that the population of that town, as given in the Census, "is not even approximately correct," the Census showed a decline since 1891, whereas the population had increased.

The Stipendiary Magistrate, of Toronto, has given emphatic endorsement to the condemnation passed by THE CHRONICLE on theatre placards and scenes representing the commission of crimes of violence. His very extensive experience has convinced him that such placards and such scenes suggest and stimulate crime, and generally have a demoralizing effect on the young. The police authorities should exercise their powers by preventing such debasing influences being exercised so freely.