

THE JULY FIRE LOSS.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada during July, as compiled from the records of the New York "Commercial Bulletin," shows a total of \$10,028,000. The following table shows the losses by months for the first seven months of the years 1900, 1901 and 1902.

	1902.	1901.	1900.
January	\$15,032,800	\$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
April.....	13,894,600	11,352,800	25,727,000
May.....	14,866,000	22,380,150	15,759,400
June.....	10,245,350	9,590,000	21,281,000
July.....	10,028,000	15,740,000	13,609,000
Total.....	\$97,133,850	\$104,666,150	\$116,908,000

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The King's arrival in London on Wednesday last, p.m., was the occasion of a popular demonstration of loyal affection such as no monarch, save Queen Victoria, has enjoyed. Few indeed have even desired to merit such esteem. In the August preceding the great French Revolution, when a discussion arose as to what bodies constituted the three Estates of the realm, a remark was made that "the people" were one of them, whatever the King was or his courtiers or Parliament. In that phrase was the germ of the Revolution. King Edward as King, is one Estate of the realm, and his title thereto is strengthened and confirmed by his being the representative of the people over whom he reigns by the "divine right" which is given by the unanimous support inspired by the love of his subjects throughout the Empire. The prolongation of the royal journey through London in order to give as many as possible an opportunity of welcoming His Majesty was one of those wise acts which are characteristic of the King. He knows he is beloved, he knows the people are full of enthusiastic joy over his recovery, he knows they, as do all mankind, delight in showing what is in their hearts, and this "touch of nature" deepened the popular affection entertained for both the King and Queen Alexandra. All promises well for the Coronation to-morrow.

The violence resorted to by the striking miners is evidence of their having lost hope of securing what they struck for. Their leader and inspirer may say what he will in deprecation of assaults upon tradesmen who sell goods to non-strikers, he may deplore attacks on other innocent citizens, but he cannot escape responsibility for the violence of his deluded victims. His very words remind us of the old-time story of advice being given to a mob not to put the person obnoxious to them in a horse-pond. The advice was a clear hint as to what the adviser thought was desirable. Mr. Mitchell condemns bloodshed, yea murder, in such milk and water terms as would be only appropriate to a censure of some amiable foible. His message to the rioters, when read be-

tween the lines, is a justification of their crime, as he aims at putting the responsibility for it on the mine owners. If *they* are the criminals then the *rioters* must be quite innocent, which is the idea conveyed in the strike leader's message. If the men had gone on working and kept up a quiet, persistent pressure on their employers for better conditions, it is almost certain that their efforts would have resulted more satisfactorily than the strike. That movement has exasperated the employers, has seriously injured many traders, has alarmed the public, has wasted some 60 millions of dollars, has created harder conditions for the working classes all over this continent, has impoverished tens of thousands of families and done the colliers not a particle of good.

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The suggestion made in this column that the sidewalks of this city be dealt with under a comprehensive plan, so as to avoid the present enormous waste of material and labour, and establish some degree of seemly uniformity in the pathways, seems, to have set the minds of some of our rulers at work on this problem. There is a proposal to borrow a large sum for reconstructing all the sidewalks of stone or its imitation. It is said that the annual saving would more than cover the annual charge on such a loan and provide a sinking fund. The project is not feasible, but it is practicable to establish a standard of sidewalk widths and a system of repairing sidewalks before they so degenerate as to become dangerous and a source of expense from accidents. At present there is no general plan, the planks are laid as they originally were when the local conditions were entirely different. In first class residential streets there are three boards laid lengthwise, as in country lanes, then, on other streets, where the traffic is very light, we find wooden sidewalks 8 and 10 feet wide, which break into the line of boulevard and spoil the appearance of such streets. The reckless destruction or maiming of shade trees by the men employed in erecting poles ought to be stopped; there is neither necessity nor excuse for such vandalism.

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Of 1,000 consecutive infant deaths in the poorer districts of Liverpool, writes the medical officer, 21 per cent. occurred among exceptionally dirty families, 11 per cent. in dwellings unfit for human habitation, and 25 per cent. in families where the parents were "markedly intemperate." So reports the "Insurance Observer." It would be well for an investigation to be made into the sanitary conditions of the houses in this city where the infant mortality is so high. General observations in regard to them have no effect. The destruction of one so-called house after being condemned as "unfit for human habitation" would have a wholesome effect. There are such places in this city in which the sanitary conditions are most revolting.