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A Result of the Ottawa Fire.

NOTWITHSTANDING the adoption by the City Council of Ottawa of new building regulations calculated to prevent destruction by fire, the insurance authorities are reported to have decided to increase rates in that city by 25 to 50 per cent. This action should be sufficient to compel the extensive use of fire-resisting materials and the erection of a greatly improved class of buildings.

The A.I.A.

It has been decided to hold the annual convention of the American Institute of Architects at Washington, in December, during the session of Congress, in the hope that the meeting may exert an influence in furtherance of several public improvements of a national character, which are expected to come up for consideration at that time. These include the remodelling of the White House, the proper grouping of the Federal buildings, plans for the improvement of the city, etc.

Quality in Portland Cement.

THE manufacture of Portland cement is attended with many difficulties, hence the product of different manufactories is likely to vary widely in quality, and purchasers require to be cautious in buying. The process of manufacture in Canada, by the older established factories at least, has to a large extent been perfected, and the products of these factories is of a uniformly high character. There are a number of new factories projected, which, though able to profit by the experience of their predecessors, must to a certain extent contend with the difficulties incident to the experimental stage of manufacture. The owners of these factories, in order to secure for their products a place in the market,