

THE MAY FIRE LOSS.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of May as compiled from the carefully kept records of the Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin, N.Y., shows a total of \$18,823,200.

The following table gives a comparison of the losses during the month of May with those of the same month in 1908 and 1909, together with the losses since January 1, for those three years and the monthly losses for the balance of 1908 and 1909:

	1908.	1909.	1910.
January.....	\$29,582,000	\$22,735,000	\$15,175,400
February.....	18,489,700	16,131,000	15,489,350
March.....	16,723,300	13,795,400	18,465,550
April.....	26,009,000	19,345,000	18,091,800
May.....	15,181,150	17,360,400	18,823,200
Total 5 months	\$105,985,150	\$89,367,100	\$86,045,300
June.....	\$19,512,000	\$14,435,900
July.....	15,323,750	15,830,900
August.....	23,123,000	16,423,000
September.....	21,431,400	15,043,000
October.....	22,722,850	17,765,200
November.....	15,834,350	14,808,550
December.....	14,629,750	19,975,500
Total year....	\$238,562,250	\$203,649,150

During May there were 239 fires, each of sufficient destructiveness to cause a loss of \$10,000 or over. For comparison the following tabulation according to the amount of the loss caused is submitted.

\$10,000 to \$20,000.....	74
20,000 to 30,000.....	42
30,000 to 50,000.....	39
50,000 to 75,000.....	32
75,000 to 100,000.....	15
100,000 to 200,000.....	24
200,000 and upward.....	13

Total..... 239

Some thirteen fires during May caused a loss of \$200,000 or more in each instance, and of these the most important ones were:

Ford City, Pa., plate glass works.....	\$1,500,000
Kansas City, Kan., soap factory and other.....	1,500,000
Shelter Island, N. Y., summer hotel.....	250,000
Cleveland, Ohio., furniture store.....	350,000
Oak Grove, Ala., lumber plant.....	300,000
Elkhart, Ind., band instrument factory.....	500,000
Bluff Point, N. Y., summer hotel.....	500,000
Minneapolis, Minn., implement warehouse and other.....	1,000,000

The May, 1910, losses aggregated about \$1,500,000 more than the sum chargeable against the same month in 1909, and the losses of this year so far are now only about \$3,000,000 less than for the same period in 1909. The fire underwriters are quite discouraged at the present time owing to the combination of a prospective commission war in the East and a fall in the price of security values.

FIRES OF THE WEEK.

Last Saturday evening considerable damage was done by fire in the building occupied by J. E. Fournier, trunk manufacturer, of Notre Dame Street West. The top floor of the building was burned and the stock of leather goods destroyed. The other floors were damaged by water. One fireman was injured by a falling beam and the network of electric wires in front of the building added considerably to the difficulties of the firemen's task two of the men receiving shocks. The insurance is as follows:—

Insurance Co. of North America	\$5,000
Fidelity Phenix.....	5,000
Mount Royal	5,000
Western.....	2,500
North British & Mercantile.....	2,500

\$20,000

PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA.—Logan's tannery at Lyon's Brook village on West river, four miles from Pictou, together with a store and two houses totally destroyed on June 4.

SOUTH MAITLAND, NOVA SCOTIA.—Mills of the Anthony Lumber Company destroyed on June 5. They were built some five years ago.

QUEBEC.—Hill Manufacturing Company's premises, 60 St. Valier Street, damaged on June 6.

DULUTH, MINN.—Bradley building damaged on June 6.

HYDEN, KENTUCKY.—Half the houses in the town destroyed on June 6.

FORTHCOMING DIVIDENDS.

BANKS.

Dominion, 3 p.c.; Eastern Townships, 2 p.c.; Metropolitan, 2 p.c.; Royal, 2½ p.c.; Traders, 2 p.c.; United Empire, 1½ p.c.—all for quarter and payable July 2. Montreal City and District Savings Bank, \$10 per share, payable July 2.

TRANSPORTATION.

Duluth Superior Traction, 1 p.c. on Preferred and Common; Twin City Rapid Transit Co., 1½ p.c. on Preferred and 1¼ p.c. on Common—all for quarter and payable July 1.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Canada Landed and National, 4 p.c. for half year; Canada North-West Land, \$5 (Realisation No. 3); Canada Permanent Mortgage, 2 p.c. for quarter, all payable July 2; Canadian Car and Foundry Pref., 1½ p.c. for quarter, payable July 20; Canadian Coloured Cotton Mills, 1 p.c. on capital stock for quarter, payable June 15; Colonial Investment and Loan, 2½ p.c. on Pref. and 1½ p.c. on Ord. Stock for half year, payable July 2; Great West Permanent Loan, 4½ p.c. for half year, payable July 1; Hamilton Provident and Loan Society, 3 p.c. for half year, payable July 2; Mackay Companies, 1 p.c. on Preference and 1½ p.c. on Common for quarter, payable July 1; Montreal Trust Company, 1½ p.c. on capital stock for quarter, payable June 15; Montreal Cotton Company, 2 p.c. on capital stock for quarter, payable June 15. Trust and Loan Company of Canada, dividend of 6 per cent. and bonus of 1 per cent.

THAT SETTLED IT.

Superintendent of Insurance William H. Hotchkiss said at a dinner in New York, according to the New York World:

"There are not so many people buying annuities from the insurance companies as there used to be. This, perhaps, speaks well for human nature. An annuity holder, you know, is apt to be selfish.

"I heard the other day, though, of an annuity holder against whom the charge of selfishness could not be brought.

"This man lived on and on. Year after year his annuity was paid. Finally, when his age seemed about 110, the company sent a special agent to his house to make sure that James Montrose in his proper person was really getting the annuity.

"The agent found James Montrose, an aged man, but hale, making a chicken coop in the backyard.

"Are you Mr. James Flagg Montrose?" he asked.

"Yes, sir; I am," the old man answered.

"Are you the Mr. Montrose who draws the annuity from the Dash Company?"

"Yes, sir, I am, and my father before me," said the old man."