

have an excellent effect on the fire insurance interest if, in some company, the officers should be dismissed by the stockholders for writing at inadequate rates, and the reason permitted to leak out. Probably nothing less than some drastic action will bring those who are seeking volume of premium and not profit to a realization of their duty to those who employ them."

**FAVOUR RAISING RATES.**—The managers of the fire insurance companies at their recent meeting at Long Branch adopted the proposition contained in the circular, on motion of Mr. E. B. Clark, of the Phoenix, of London, with the condition that the Committee of Twenty-seven should confer with companies not represented at the meeting, and after they have secured a sufficient number of companies to put it in effect, are to call another conference of underwriters, at which the Committee of Supervision is to be chosen.

The agreement adopted under the above proviso is as follows:—

"1. The undersigned fire insurance companies doing business in the United States agree to constitute and appoint for one year from the time of the general meeting at which this agreement is adopted a Committee of Supervision, whose duties shall be to consider the conditions of the fire insurance business in the various States, the expenses of the business and the adjustment of rates.

"2. This committee shall number thirty, and shall be selected by ballot at the meeting of the companies, at which this agreement is adopted, and it shall appoint its own chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer, and shall have full power to employ such assistants as may be required in the proper prosecution of the duties assigned it; expenses to be met by a pro rata assessment on the fire premiums of the subscribers derived from the territory under supervision.

"3. Such committee shall consist of officers and managers of companies fairly representative of all classes of subscribers, and transacting a general agency business throughout the United States.

"4. The Committee of Supervision shall immediately endeavour, through local boards and other associations, to secure an adjustment of the rates upon such classes of hazards and for such localities as the experience of underwriters during the last five years has shown to be inequitable."

**WEARY OF WAR.**—Whatever division of opinion there may be on the rightfulness of our course in the Philippines, we undoubtedly owe to our sanguinary presence there escape from a dangerous popular demand for war with China.

War is always attractive to a people who have had no experience of it. The men of the new generation that has come upon the stage since the great rebellion were given stimulating thrills by our contest with Spain. Victory was so swift and easy and brilliant that war seemed like exhilarating play. Had these Chinese atrocities occurred within a few months of Spain's confession of defeat, nine-tenths of the young men of the United States would have been clamoring for vengeance and thirsting for military glory.

But the two years of drudging slaughter in the Philippines, the death by wounds and disease of thousands of our men—not to speak of the hosts of Fili-

pinos who have died for their cause—have taught this country the realities of war and cooled the national blood by clearing the national head. So the people remain sane, and the President is permitted to deal calmly with the Chinese situation.—Philadelphia North American (Rep.).

**BRITISH COAL EXPORTS.**—As a nation we are burning our candle—and our coals—at both ends. And not content with doing this, we are letting other people burn the latter for us as well. Here are the figures for the past five years:

	Coal raised, Tons.	Coal exported Tons.
1895 . . . . .	189,652,562	31,714,906
1896 . . . . .	195,351,951	32,947,680
1897 . . . . .	202,119,196	35,354,296
1898 . . . . .	202,042,243	35,058,430
1899 . . . . .	220,085,368	41,180,332

When the Royal Commission on Coal Supplies reported in 1871, they said that the export of coal to foreign countries would not exceed the amount sent out in 1869—about 10,000,000 tons—as these countries were developing their coal supplies. In that year, we were raising just about half the amount of coal from our pits that we did in 1899. The figures as to coal exported for the first six months of 1900 are still more startling. Here are the comparative figures:

	Tons.
Six months ending June 30, 1898 . . . . .	16,717,793
Six months ending June 30, 1899 . . . . .	20,990,630
Six months ending June 30, 1900 . . . . .	22,063,206

Of all our customers France is increasing her orders at the most rapid rate, as shown by these figures:

	Tons.
1895 . . . . .	5,067,814
1896 . . . . .	5,222,593
1897 . . . . .	5,607,292
1898 . . . . .	5,710,113
1899 . . . . .	6,870,365

And in the six months ended June 30 last, France took 4,230,783 tons of coal from this country, against 2,672,506 tons in the corresponding six months of 1898. Italy is our next best customer, followed by Germany and then Russia. The last-named country has increased her imports of coal from the United Kingdom to a greater extent even than France. In 1895 she took 1,811,261 tons. In 1899 the quantity was 3,397,602, or very nearly double. During the six months ending June 30 last, Russia imported from the United Kingdom more than double the number of tons she took in the corresponding period of 1898, but this may be partly owing to the fact that the import duty on coal going into that country will be reimposed on September 1, next.—London Chronicle.

#### NOTES FROM OTTAWA.

By a fire at Aylmer on the 8th inst., the saw-mill of the Messrs. Bailie was completely destroyed, the loss being \$22,000. The firm had an insurance of \$0,500. As indicative of the laxity of country fire brigades, it may be mentioned that, excellent as is that of Aylmer in many respects, it experienced difficulty and delay in having two different sizes of hose, which could not be coupled.