YUKON RAILWAY BILL.

The daily papers inform us the Senate is preparing to discuss the Yukon Railway Bill, and the decision of that body will be anxiously waited for by the country. It is very evident that public opinion regards the building of this road as a question devoid of political significance.

Party principles should not enter into the discussion of a matter of simple business. Our people want a highway into this new country, and without we trust they will not devote any time to political desiring to hasten the deliberations of our Senators, considerations, but simply give the country communication with the Yukon upon the best terms, and at as early a date as possible.

FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA FOR FEBRUARY, 1898 (ESTIMATED).

DATE.	LOCATION.	RISK.	TOTAL LOSS.	INSURANCE LOSS.
1898.				
Feb. 1	Clinton	Organ factory	$100,000	$40,300
1	Montreal	Stores	22,000	22,000
3	Brighton	Post office	1,000	1,000
3	Toronto	Store	20,000	6,000
1	Thorold	Dwelling	1,500	1,300
3	Lindsay	do	1,000	1,000
2	Winnipeg	Commercial Blk.	350,000	200,000
5	Montreal	Printing office	2,500	2,500
5	Stirling	Stores	20,000	12,000
5	Winnipeg	Carriage factory	2,000	1,500
6	Cote St Paul	Power House	100,000	21,200
5	Sillery	Dwelling	1,000	1,000
2	Antrim	Store	2,500	2,000
3	Dunchurch	"	10,000	5,100
3	Oil Springs	Stores	1,000	1,000
	Ottawa	Dwelling	3,000	2,500
7	St. Hyacinthe	Knitting Mill	1,700	1,700
8	Cote des Neiges	Dwelling	8,000	5,100
13	Vankleek Hill	Stores	10,000	7,000
12	Belleville	do	2,000	2,000
1	Hamilton	Dwelling	2,000	1,900
13	West Selkirk	do	2,000	1,000
13	Hamilton	Rolling Mills	20,000	20,000
16	Markham	Waterworks	3,000	1,600
15	Montreal	Store	7,500	7,500
15	Morden	Stores	10,000	6,000
19	Brighton	do	4,000	2,500
19	Wellandport	Cheese factory	2,500	1,000
20	Burlington	Flour Mill	7,000	5,500
19	Lequille, N.S.	Barrel factory	15,000	3,000
21	Mount Forest	Stores	1,500	1,000
23	Montreal	Store	4,000	4,000
23	St. Laurent, Man.	Mission House	4,500	3,000
28	Carp	Stores	1,500	1,000
10	Rapid City	Store	1,000	1,000
9	Amherst, N.S.	do	1,500	1,500
17	Toronto	Printing office	1,500	1,500
21	East Flamboro	Farm buildings	2,500	1,600
28	Somerset	Church	50,000	42,000
			$800,200	$442,800
Add 20 per cent. for unreported losses and losses under $1,000			$ 160,040	$ 88,560
Totals			$960,240	$531,360

SUMMARY FOR CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1898 COMPARED WITH 1897.

	1897		1898	
	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.
For January	$1,103,280	$ 852,480	$ 434,280	$ 302,160
" February	876,960	377,160	960,240	531,360
Totals	$ 1,980,240	$ 1,229,640	$1,494,720	$ 833,520

CASUALTY INSURANCE.

The tabulated statement of the Casualty Insurance Companies doing business in the United States for 1897 and 1898 does not show a very satisfactory condition of affairs. The expenditure to obtain business seems, in the case of some Companies, to have been enormous. When the bulk of the premium receipts disappear in expenses, there is very little profit in the business.

Careful analysis of the record for the year ought to make some managers very thoughtful:

COMPANY.	Net Premiums Received.	Losses Paid.	Per cent. Expense to Premiums 1897.
Ætna Indemnity	$ 5,620	....	....
American Surety	1,130,985	$483,126	68.
Central Accident	83,137	15,275	73.7
City Trust, Safe Dep. & Sur. Co.	205,277	48,014	98.1
Employers' Liability	1,058,004	620,660	36.9
Fidelity & Casualty	2,944,245	1,200,281	57.0
Fidelity & Deposit Co	783,365	172,818	52.7
Frankf. Mar., Acci. & Pl. Glass	284,756	83,154	41.8
Guarantee Co. of N. America	166,849	31,367	65.7
Hartf. St. Boiler Insp. & Insur	903,672	59,267	84.9
Inter State Casualty	126,779	27,986	92.2
Lawyers' Surety	86,446	3,845	87.0
Lloyds' Plate Glass	385,935	124,725	52.2
London Guarantee & Accident	77,051	337,397	42.0
Metropolitan Plate Glass	204,575	85,709	51.8
Mutual Boiler	13,854	14,000	62.3
New York Plate Glass	219,896	63,234	51.5
New Jersey Plate Glass	77,975	25,090	56.7
Ocean Guarantee & Accident	153,539	17,999	45.7
Preferred Accident	818,193	330,840	56.3
Standard Accident	956,570	525,532	46.6
Union Casualty	813,490	473,882	48.8
U. S. Casualty	688,013	244,358	50.9
U. S. Fidelity & Guarantee Co.	75,811	1,544	95.9
U. S. Guarantee Co.	106,046	25,371	56.6

THT RAILWAY WAR.

What they are saying in England of the Canadian Railways and rate cutting may be gathered from the following extracts :—

The *Statist* thinks that the reduction in rates may not mean such heavy loss of traffic as many people hastily assume is likely to be shown in future returns, but still admits that it is disquieting to learn that local cutting as well as for Pacific through trade is being resorted to. "The reaction of nearly 10 brought the quotation to an attractive point, especially with $2 1-2 dividend in the price, and as this is a security not entirely left to the mercies of mere speculators, large purchases have been made by investors."

Vanity Fair points out that "Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks have suffered a good deal by the rate war, which has so suddenly broken out; but this dispute affects the Canadian Pacific more than the Grand Trunk, and authorities have maintained that the latter's earnings will show but little decrease from this cause. What affects Grand Trunks more than anything, however, is the undoubtedly large amount open for the rise. At the same time, those who are prepared to pay for their stock may seize every opportunity for taking up Grand Trunk First or Second Preferences when they have any set-back."

Herapath's Railway Journal thinks that the defence of the Canadian Pacific against the charge of cutting the Klondyke rates is feeble. "The United