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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE:

WASTING THIRTY-ONE DOLLARS PER MINUTE.

The fire losses in Canada for the first four months of the current year total $5,361,875, an average of $1,340,468 per month. This is equal to a daily loss of $44,682. In other words, $1,861 worth of property has been burned every hour since the new year dawned, or $31 every minute. This is an appalling fire loss, and little is being done to check such extravagant waste of capital. The losses for the past two years have been as follow:—

Month.	1909.	1910.
January	$ 1,500,000	$ 1,275,246
February	1,263,005	756,625
March	851,690	1,076,235
April	720,650	1,717,237
May	3,358,276	2,735,535
June	1,360,275	1,500,000
July	1,075,600	6,386,674
August	2,582,915	1,667,270
September	1,615,405	894,125
October	2,208,718	2,195,781
November	935,191	1,943,708
December	1,433,813	1,444,860
Total	$18,905,538	$23,593,315

Adding to these figures the total for the first four months of 1910, we have a fire loss in twenty-eight months of $47,860,728, an average monthly loss of $1,709,311. In addition, there has to be recorded a disastrous list of fire fatalities. Last month in Canada twenty people met their death in fires. During the first four months of the year, 77 lives were sacrificed in the same manner. In the twenty-eight months since January, 1909, no less than 552 persons lost their lives in fires, a monthly average of almost 20 persons. The following table gives the details:—

Month.	1909.	1910.	1911.
January	16	27	27
February	8	15	12
March	16	20	18
April	18	37	20
May	21	15	..
June	16	52	..
July	4	15	..
August	17	11	..
September	10	10	..
October	26	16	..
November	34	19	..
December	33	19	..
Total	219	256	77

Carelessness has been responsible for the greater part of this loss of life and property. For instance, of