

FIRE LOSSES IN AUGUST.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of August, as given by the New York Journal of Commerce shows a total of \$20,248,000. During the past month there were no less than 361 fires where the loss reached or exceeded \$10,000 in each instance. These are classified as follows:

\$10,000 to \$20,000.....	142
20,000 to 30,000.....	72
30,000 to 50,000.....	49
50,000 to 75,000.....	38
75,000 to 100,000.....	14
100,000 to 200,000.....	33
200,000 and over.....	13
Total.....	361

The following table gives a comparison by months of the losses this year with 1905 and 1906:

	1905	1906	1907
January.....	\$16,378,100	\$17,723,800	\$24,064,000
February.....	25,591,000	18,249,350	19,876,600
March.....	14,751,400	18,727,750	20,559,700
April.....	11,901,350	202,501,150	21,925,900
May.....	12,736,250	16,512,850	16,286,300
June.....	11,789,800	13,950,650	14,765,000
July.....	13,175,250	12,428,050	18,240,150
August.....	11,435,600	9,641,600	20,248,000
Total 8 mos.....	\$117,758,750	\$399,735,200	\$155,965,650
September.....	13,715,250	10,852,550
October.....	12,267,000	13,872,450
November.....	16,178,200	16,248,350
December.....	15,276,600	19,001,450
Total 12 mos....	\$175,193,800	\$459,710,000

In its comments upon the above showing, The New York Journal of Commerce points out that August has been practically twice as expensive as usual, and remarks that this fact, coupled with the bad record of the other months of 1907 so far, has had a decidedly depressing effect on fire insurance managers who can already see that between the fall in security values and the drain made by fire losses the current year will be an exceedingly bad one for them.

The following table gives losses by fire for the first eight months of the past twelve years:

1907.....	\$155,965,650	1901.....	\$113,009,150
1906.....	119,735,200	1900.....	109,856,250
1905.....	117,758,750	1899.....	86,829,850
1904.....	124,172,850	1898.....	74,960,350
1903.....	105,032,100	1897.....	24,021,700
1902.....	104,559,400	1896.....	81,888,050

* Deducting San Francisco conflagration losses. † Deducting Baltimore conflagration losses. ‡ Deducting Ottawa-Hull conflagration losses and Hoboken steamship losses.

Aside from the conflagration figures mentioned, the average for the two-third portion of each year during the past twelve years was \$105,382,450. It would thus appear that during the eight months of 1907, with no general conflagration, property has been destroyed by fire to the extent of nearly fifty per cent. more than the average.

INTEREST AND DIVIDEND PAYMENTS by leading corporations of the United States in September, as reported by the New York Journal of Commerce, will represent \$76,097,351, of which dividend disbursements will contribute \$44,847,351, an increase over the same month a year ago of \$7,396,206.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

THE PENNSYLVANIA INSURANCE DEPARTMENT'S annual report gives the following summary of the entire fire, marine and inland business done in the State by all companies, home and foreign, stock and mutual, in the year 1906:

Premiums received by stock companies... \$21,078,170.43
Premiums and assessments of mutual companies... 4,325,948.68

Total Pennsylvania business... \$25,404,119.11

Losses paid by stock companies... \$ 8,417,301.07
Losses paid by mutual companies... 2,017,686.99

Total losses paid in Pennsylvania... \$10,434,988.06

THE OHIO INSURANCE DEPARTMENT has issued a special report on Fraternal Beneficiary Associations in addition to its extended volume on regular insurance. Superintendent Vorvys reports that there were in force in Ohio at the close of 1905 209,439 certificates of fraternal insurance, giving a nominal insurance total of \$348,315,701. During 1906 there were issued 52,324 certificates for \$46,082,100, while 32,205 terminated for \$30,714,807; leaving in force December 31, 1906, no less than 310,558 certificates for \$363,682,994. It is significant that of the large amount terminated only \$2,069,701 was for death claims.

THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT'S report shows that state to have spent for all classes and kinds of insurance protection during the year no less a sum than \$31,669,462—while, during the same period, policy-holders and beneficiaries received from the companies \$13,079,905. To refer to the difference of \$17,589,557 as being "in favour of companies" seems somewhat out of place in an official publication coming from the superintendent of insurance. Aside from any intention so to do, the phraseology is apt to foster public misapprehension as to the function of insurance companies.

IN THE WISCONSIN'S REPORT on fire and marine insurance, Commissioner Beedle speaks strongly in favour of the appointment for that state of a regular fire marshall. He sums up the advantages that will accrue in reducing fire loss and the cost of insurance. He says: "This will be accomplished 1st, by removing from the community those persons who are actually guilty of arson, and 2nd, by having dangerous conditions of building removed and taking such precautionary measures as will prevent the spreading of fires when once started."

THE MAINE INSURANCE REPORT for the year ending December 31, 1906, shows \$172,038,351 to have been written on fire risks in the state, and \$1,405,313 to have been paid in losses; premiums received having been \$2,642,894.

THE GOVERNMENT CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR THE G.T.P., states that before this year's construction work on the Grand Trunk Pacific is ended, the rails will be laid from Winnipeg to Saskatoon, a distance of 465 miles, and the road will be able to materially assist in the transportation of this year's wheat crop in the West.