

NOVEMBER FIRE WASTE.

The loss last month in Canada and the United States from fire was satisfactorily less than in November last year, but nearly a million dollars more than for November, 1902. The following table, compiled by the New York Journal of Commerce, shows the figures for this year and last in detail:

	1902.	1903.	1904.
January	\$ 15,032,800	\$ 13,166,350	\$ 21,790,200
February	21,010,500	16,090,800	90,051,000
March	12,056,600	9,907,650	11,212,150
April	13,894,600	13,549,000	23,623,000
May	14,866,000	16,366,800	15,221,400
June	10,245,350	14,684,350	10,646,700
July	10,028,000	12,838,600	11,923,200
August	7,425,550	8,428,350	9,715,200
September	9,945,000	9,939,450	14,387,650
October	9,593,300	10,409,800	12,866,200
November	10,546,650	13,589,550	11,515,000
Total 11 mos..	\$134,644,350	\$138,970,900	\$232,941,700

Already the losses for this year, so far as it has gone, largely exceed those for the whole of either of the past two years, and this would still be the case, even were the losses on account of the Baltimore and Toronto conflagrations deducted. It is believed, however, that notwithstanding this severe strain, a large number of the fire underwriting companies will find they have fairly large surpluses at the end of the year, owing to increases in the values of securities, and to the fairly good business transacted during the last few months. Allowing \$60,000,000 for conflagration losses, the eleven months of this year show a fire waste of \$172,000,000, which is far above the figures of the same period in 1903 and 1904. The people of this North American continent are not showing that they have learned to cure their costly carelessness of fire.



THE GUELPH STOCK SHOW.

No better index can be found of Canada's strong-armed reaching out for the best possible than in the exhibition which has been going on this week at Guelph, Ontario. Among the people who carry on the professions and trades and arts, there are two great divisions; the men content with the average, and the men who are never satisfied with any thing but the very highest. Between these two classes there is all the difference in the world, but between the various individuals who help to make up this second category, that is, the men who constantly strive to bring their respective trades or professions to the very finest point possible, there is hardly any difference at all. Intrinsically, they are all artists in the best meaning of the term—shapers of the ideal. The great physician realizes that his raw materials are nature and human mechanism a little out of joint, and his great striving is to bring the two phenomena once more into unison, with as little disturbance of other underlying sequences as possible. The great financier or business man, with a wide grasp of intricate causes and effects in widely separated portions of the globe, from the tangle creates a "deal" which will mean the success of far-foreseen plans. The breeder of fancy live stock puts before his mind's eye an ideal form of carcase and, with never-ceasing patience, with an eye trained to the analysis of subtle distinctions and not less subtle likenesses, with a power of observation capable of guessing at unseen tendencies, he drives towards his mark, firm enough

to guide nature with his acquired human skill, never too firm or obstinate to refuse to take nature's gentle reminder of "Thus far and no farther" along a forbidden direction. Each man in his respective career is working for the best possible result, not merely the passably good; the great farmer, or horticulturist, the great merchant, and the great engineer or physician are in a class by themselves based upon the equality of the finest.

Our banks and insurance companies, our great merchants in many lines need no calling of public attention to the importance of their work at this time of writing. The Guelph Show gives tangible illustration of the work of that other great class of workers referred to—the breeders. Suffice it to say that the exhibition this week shows that in this work they are in no way behind their fellow-workers above referred to. The animals shown have been more than fully up to the high average of previous years, and to say this is no small compliment. As to the exhibition itself, it has been a very pronounced success.

Upon this, the Royal City is to be congratulated. It has met with another great success, and most emphatically deserves it. Some other cities in the Dominion, jealous of the marks of approval which each year are showered upon Guelph for its enterprise in this respect would appear to be anxious themselves to become the seat of the annual Fat Stock Show. But we say, to the victors belong the spoils. Guelph has done splendidly well with her show; let her retain it and may she and it long prosper.



TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

That Canadian trade with Australia presents openings which are yet a very long way from being filled may be gleaned from the report of the imports of the Commonwealth for the year 1903, which has just been issued by the Government. To mention a few items, the imports into Australia of wearing apparel from Canada amounted in 1903 to £1,117, while those from other countries were valued at £1,354,837; boots and shoes, Canadian, £386; other countries, £342,467; brushware, Canada, £24; other countries, £48,735; butter, Canada, £205; other countries, £88,754; cheese, Canada, £325; other countries, £33,071; preserved fish, Canada, £11,490; other countries, £272,572; furniture, Canada, £1,735; other countries, £143,129; wheat, Canada, £28,428; other countries, £1,909,403; flour, Canada, £108,558; other countries, £647,485; agricultural implements and machinery, Canada, £58,412; other countries, £455,127; leather and manufactures, Canada, £165; other countries, £236,885; machinery, Canada, £5,055; other countries, £687,121; pork, Canada, £15,117; other countries, £65,136; metals and manufactures, Canada, £1,946; other countries, £1,139,967; printing and other paper, Canada, £2,985; other countries, £700,239; timber, dressed and undressed, Canada, £40,748; other countries, £698,705; bicycles, Canada, £25,046; other countries, £350,252.

Compared with the preceding year the most noteworthy changes were an increase in imports from Canada of breadstuffs of nearly £50,000, and a decrease in those of timber of nearly £70,000. Mr. J. S. Larke, of Sydney, N.S.W., to whom we are indebted for these figures attributes the former to the demand created by the drouth; while the latter he cannot explain, as there was no similar decline in importations from the United States. There were varia-