

the cotton will go to points beyond the State, and we can close our compresses and throw some thousand more men out of employment. No such legislation as this would be possible in any Northern State or in any other Southern State. The effects of this legislation are most appalling, and we do not yet fully realize the position in which it has placed us. The Executive of this State, who takes the responsibility of this state of affairs, surely never thought it would be so far reaching."

The situation in Arkansas might have devised by underwriters as an object lesson on the value of fire insurance and the dangers liable to be caused to business interests by such legislation as restricts the fire insurance business.

It is a disagreeable position for the property owners of Arkansas to be placed in, but we fear they are mainly responsible for the evil fate that has befallen them. They have displayed a lack of appreciation of the advantages of fire insurance, one may, indeed, say an ignorance of what services insurance renders to business, which are not creditable to a mercantile community. Now that what they were so indifferent about has been withdrawn from them they are becoming greatly alarmed, their eyes have been opened and they are learning by painful experience what they ought to have known by reflection and the exercise of common sense.

Arkansas is now presenting an object lesson to the world on the value of fire insurance which other places might study with advantage.

#### CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

RESULTS OF LAST YEAR'S BUSINESS. LARGE INCREASE IN GROSS AND NET EARNINGS.

At a meeting of the directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway held here on 14th inst., the results of the year's business up to 30th June last were announced.

For the past year the gross earnings were \$50,480,882 as compared with \$46,460,132 in previous year, showing an increase of \$4,011,750. The working expenses were \$35,006,704 against \$32,256,027 in 1902-3, an increase of \$2,750,676. The excess of the increase in gross earnings over the increase in working expenses being \$1,260,983.

The net earnings were \$15,475,088, as against \$14,213,105 in previous year. The total net revenue for year up to 30th June last was \$17,059,751, an increase in the year and of \$1,155,378.

After providing for fixed charges there was \$8,875,685 available for dividends, being \$787,410 more than previous year, the surplus carried forward to ensuing year, 1905-6, being \$1,784,523.

The gross earnings, working expenses and net earnings in each of the last 5 years were as follows:

Year	Gross earnings \$	Working expenses \$	Net earnings \$
1905.....	50,481,882	35,006,794	15,475,088
1904.....	46,469,132	32,256,027	14,213,105
1903.....	43,957,373	28,120,527	15,836,845
1902.....	37,503,053	23,417,141	14,085,912
1901.....	30,855,203	18,745,828	12,109,375
Increase over 1901	19,626,679	16,260,966	3,365,713

#### JULY FIRES IN CANADA.

The detailed list of July fires in the New York "Commercial Bulletin" comprises the following:

Goderich, Ont., grain elevator .....	\$230,000
Thorndale, Ont., box factory .....	10,000
Sherbrooke, Q., business block .....	10,000
Hamilton, Ont., ore refining works .....	12,000
Fredericton, N.B., road bridge .....	10,000
Halifax, N.S., hardware store .....	35,000
Charlesbourg, Que., saw mill .....	10,000
Odanah, Ont., mine shaft works .....	10,000
Mimico, Ont., hotel .....	10,000
Millerton, N.B., tanning extract works .....	17,000
Shelbourne, Ont., grain elevator .....	30,000
Fernie, C., various .....	60,000
Toronto, Ont., ice factory etc. ....	70,000
	522,000
add 15 per cent. for small and unreported fires ..	78,300

Total in July .....

#### CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

##### SOME PROGRESS FEATURES COMPARED.

When comparisons are made between the financial and commercial conditions of Canada with those in the United States, and between the relative rate of progress made by the two countries, they are usually intended to disparage this Dominion.

Intentions of this nature are not favourable to a fair, judicial estimate being made. A certain preconceived idea has to be justified, which leads as in the trial of a case in a court of law to all the favorable evidence being presented in its best light and what is unfavourable withheld, or its force minimized, if not misrepresented.

A century ago the population of the whole of Canada was about 340,000, while that of the United States was about 5,500,000. In 1800 the population of the United States is officially given as 5,308,483, being, in that year, 166 for every 10 in Canada. For many years America had the inestimable advantage of being directly under the Government of England, nearly all the people were of British birth, or extraction, and a large trade being done with Great Britain, chiefly exportations of those classes of products which now constitute the bulk of American exports. British capital was the foundation of American's commerce and industries, and upon British capital they have been largely built up.

Owing to the climates of the United States ranging from that of the moderate to the sub-tropical zone, the natural products of the United States are more varied than those capable of being grown in Canada. To compare a country which is practically a continent in itself, with vast areas of different climates, to one which, practically, up to only a few years ago was a narrow strip of territory stretching like a ribbon alongside a river and lakes, is a comparison of things too dissimilar to form a rational basis for comparisons.

But, as the comparison is made, it will be interesting to examine some of the conditions.