FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA FOR MARCH, 1899. (ESTIMATED).

Date.	Location.	Risk.	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.
Mar.				
4	Toronto	Dwelling	$ 5,000	$1,500
4	do	do	2,000	1,400
5	Napanee	Stores	6,000	3,500
4	Qu'Appelle	Blacksmiths s'p.	4,500	3,000
8	Sorel	Hotel & Stores.	60,000	33,000
9	Thousand Isl'ds. Junction	Grain Warehouse	11,500	3,000
11	Belleville	Hotel	4,500	3,300
8	Niagara Falls	Store	1,500	1,000
1	Orono	Dwelling	1,000	1,000
13	Bedford	Stores	15,000	12,000
12	Belleville	Dwelling	3,000	1,200
12	Burlington Bea'h	Car Sheds	4,500	4,500
15	Halifax	Theatre	10,000	3,600
16	Colborne	Stores	17,000	10,000
16	Cornwall	Hotel	1,000	1,000
	Tp. Duhamel	Oil Refinery	4,000	4,000
17	Ottawa	Dwellings	4,000	2,300
18	Wellington, B.C.	Opera House	20,000	10,000
19	London	Stores	3,000	2,500
18	Regina	Printing Offic	5,000	3,500
19	Sherbrooke	Stable	1,000	1,000
19	Whitewood	Commercial bl'k.	12,000	5,700
20	Quebec	Dwelling	5,000	4,500
22	Toronto	Paper Box Fa'ry.	40,000	30,000
19	Inkerman	Barns	2,500	1,000
27	London	Drug Warehouse	20,000	20,000
28	Sherbrooke	Sash Factory	3,500	3,500
28	Montreal	Store	1,000	1,000
29	Belleville	Dwelling	1,000	1,000
29	Montreal	Iron Workers	8,200	8,200
30	do	Stores	10,000	10,000
28	do	Dwelling	2,500	2,500
			$289,200	$193,700
	Add 20 per cent. for unreported losses and losses under $1,000		$57,840	$38,740
	Totals		$347,040	$222,440

SUMMARY FOR CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1899 COMPARED WITH 1898.

	1899.		1898.	
	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.
For January	$1,221,240	$ 622,080	$ 434,280	$ 302,160
" February	1,120,920	625,560	960,240	531,360
" March	347,040	222,440	558,000	392,760
Totals	$2,689,200	$1,470,080	$2,052,720	$1,226,280

BRANCH BANKS AND COUNTRY BANKERS.

Canadian bankers who have noted the disfavour, almost amounting to actual hostility, with which a small country bank often regards the advent of branches of large metropolitan institutions will find set forth in the following extract from the New York "Commercial Bulletin" the very advantages conferred by many of our branch banks upon communities hitherto compelled to pay whatever rate of interest a local bank happened to charge. In the United States, as elsewhere, the objections of the country banker to competition and cheap money will soon be swept away. The "Bulletin" says:—

A Western banker the other day made an admirable address on the subject of currency reform. Nothing could be more explicit than his demand not only for the gold standard, but for legislation needed to remove all ambiguity regarding its establishment and removing all danger of attack upon it. His remarks on an asset-secured currency are not perfectly clear in the report telegraphed to Eastern papers, but the apparently favored it, for he seems to have urged an issue to the par value of the bonds and emergency currency, subject to a special and heavier rate of taxation, up to a high percentage of the capital, and of very limited duration. A larger measure of emancipation from Government bonds than this is entirely safe and undoubtedly necessary. But the bankers all over the country are, very properly, cautious in advising a departure from the present form of security. The more they consider the matter, however, the clearer they will see that ultimately the bond security must be abolished and that the early steps toward that end should not be delayed. Branch banks he regarded with marked disfavor, or at least he assumed that the public generally did, and predicted that in the present state of hostility to monopolies any party that provided for branch banks would be defeated. This may be true, but the speaker represented the local banks which are afraid of the competition of the branches of metropolitan banks. We doubt very much if the public, even around those small local banks, would be as much alarmed at the advent of branches as the country bankers themselves are. Branches of metropolitan banks would in all probability reduce the rates of interest now prevailing in the West and South, and while the bankers of those regions would regard such a revolution with disfavor, the people generally who borrow money would rapidly overcome their present apprehensions.

GREENSHIELDS-McINTYRE FIRE.

Re McIntyre loss. As our readers are already aware, the Insurance Companies interested in the McIntyre loss took over the stock of this firm for $415,000, on which they have realized $260,000 gross. The loss sustained by the Insurance Companies will be about 51 per cent. The amount of Insurance carried was $350,000.

ANOTHER AMERICAN LIFE COMPANY LOOKING TO ENGLAND.—The Penn Mutual Life of Philadelphia may begin business in England. Officers just returning from a trip are said to have reported that there is a fine opening for a "live American life company."

THE MISSOURI INSURANCE LAW.—Governor Stephens returned the Farris insurance bill to the Senate on Tuesday, having signed it. This measure makes the anti-Trust law apply to St. Louis and Kansas City, and will practically destroy the boards of fire underwriters in both cities. It will become a law in ninety days