

the same plan will be followed. Mr. C. E. L. Jarvis, in whose hands the compilation of the tariff has been placed, has a heavy task, and one that will deserve a more substantial recognition from the Companies than a mere vote of thanks.

President Dresser, in his address to the Fire Underwriters' Association of the North-West, made a courteous acknowledgment of the benefit which the Insurance Press of the country has been to Insurance interests. He said: "To the courtesy and encouragement of the Insurance Press are we indebted for much of the success of our Association in the past, and I do not feel like wholly passing over our obligations in this respect in silence. It is one of the modern tools that no underwriter who wishes to keep up with the times can afford to be without. Its praises have been a theme in nearly every address which has been delivered before our society. I most heartily endorse all the good things that have been said by our friends of the Press, and shall not weary you with a repetition of their good qualities and numberless virtues. Its representatives have been our staunch supporters and are with us today. If the prizes which have been offered, and for which our members have been invited to compete, are an index, we may safely infer that the Press has met with the financial rewards to which it is justly entitled by its merits. By its adherence to our interests it has the reward of grateful hearts, and, as Joe Jefferson says: 'Here is to its good health, and its family's; may it live long and prosper.'"

There is a pleasure in knowing that honest effort has secured recognition and praise. Judging by our own experience, it must have been a long struggle against many adverse circumstances before many of the journals in the United States attained their present high position, and unless, in the majority of cases, it had been gained by honesty of purpose, this unreserved praise would not have been bestowed by Mr. Dresser.

We have heard murmurs raised against the Insurance Press, and whisperings of black-mail and such like charges. Well, many of them may be true. We are not prepared to say that the Insurance Press is purer and better than any other human institution, which a denial of that would amount to. But what we do say is, that honest companies very soon find out honest journals, and it is only a "shady" business that needs fear black-mail, as it also fears the truth.

The chief trouble with all three of the gentlemen who have written essays on the Fire Hazard of Flour Mills for the North-western Underwriters' Association, in the present and years past, has been that none of them have had anything like a minute acquaintance with the machinery they treated of in its relation to the subject. Mr. Johnson evidently prepared himself more carefully than his predecessors; but he, like them, has been too prone to regard flour mills as containing some haunting fire demon, and to see it or its shadow in some of the most innocent places imaginable. We remember hearing an old Insurance man say that

once upon a time he was in a flour mill preparatory to placing insurance upon it. He asked the miller how high he speeded his smutter. "Oh, 'bout 600," replied the miller. Thereupon the insurance man dilated upon the danger of high speeds generally, and of smutters in particular, and was proceeding to raise the rate, when the miller asked him the rate upon a wood-working establishment in the neighborhood. The agent replied, giving a lower price than he proposed to insure the mill for, when the miller closed the argument and the agent's mouth simultaneously by calling attention to the fact that that wood-working establishment had machines in it running at a speed of from 3,000 to 4,500 revolutions per minnte. The insurance men, and especially those who write essays, seem to be "down on" flour mills. They prefer to take gilt-edge risks like wood-working establishments, summer-resort hotels, and the like, than flour mills which have demoniac smutters in them running at the terrifying speed of 600 revolutions. Verily, they strain at a gnat and swallow camels that rise on their stomachs and fill them with anguish when the proofs of losses come in.—*American Miller.*

OUR FIRE RECORD.

The interest displayed in furnishing us with information for the compilation of this record is rapidly increasing. Most of the Companies now favor us with data, and many agents and brigade-chiefs send us monthly returns.

The eventual value of this record will depend mainly on the statistical tabulation of results by districts and classes—and as to commence properly is more than half the battle—we invite suggestions and advice from underwriters as to the most sensible and practicable method of tabulation; as to the most useful headings under which to classify risks; as to the most convenient way to lay down districts; and generally to help us in making, in a feasible and comprehensive style, tables that may prove of value in after years.

Many of the larger and older Companies, at considerable labor and at no little expense, compile such data from their own experience; similar tables prepared from the experience of all would undoubtedly be of even greater value, and while furnishing material for judicious valuation of rates, would tend to show so clearly the actual loss ratio by risks and by districts, that the foolhardy rate-cutter would not so triumphantly flourish as he is commonly reported to do now-a-days.

Circulars will be issued on this subject during the coming month, and we trust that Canadian underwriters will not be slow to assist us in a matter that should be of the greatest service to their profession.

In twenty-five years the percentage of loss to insurance companies by fires in this city (New York) has decreased from 32.87 per cent. to 13.24 per cent. This gratifying decrease is owing mainly to the efficient action of the fire insurance patrol. The greatest number of fires occur between the hours of 8 o'clock and 9 o'clock in the evening, so it is said.—*Chronicle.*