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Verdict on the London Fire. The enquiry into the origin and circumstances of the great conflagration in London, by which a whole district was destroyed in the heart of the Metropolis, has reached a lame and impotent conclusion. The jury seemed not to have realized the gravity of the situation. Their proceedings ended with a verdict which would have been appropriate enough, and sufficiently adequate, had the inquest been one in regard to a small fire. But, when the evidence was overwhelming that the whole fire protection system of the City was woefully behind the times, and was utterly inadequate to meet any grave emergency, the jury should have made some reference to this, and called upon the authorities to make the fire protection equal to the needs of a great city. The jury merely said they were not satisfied that the fire brigade was fully equipped with fire engines, and they were not unanimous in regarding the supply of water efficient. Their only recommendation was that one engine be kept with steam up at the Central Fire Station. They found that the fire was not caused by a gas explosion or spontaneous combustion, but was the work of some person or persons unknown—that it is the jury considered the fire by which \$3,750,000 was lost was an act of incendiarism. The London County Council will probably be aroused into taking some action to make the fire protection of the Metropolis as efficient as that of the cities and towns of Canada and the United States.

Vote exemptions. The citizens of Toronto at the recent municipal elections, were asked to vote Yea or Nay on the following question: "Are you in favor of the principle of abolishing all exemptions from municipal taxation?" The total vote cast was 19,697, out of which 11,164 were Yeas, that is, over 58 per cent. out of 16,697 voters, expressed a wish to see all exemptions from municipal taxation abolished. Had the question been so qualified as to elicit a judgment on the principle of abolishing all exemptions, except on buildings devoted to religious uses, the vote would have been almost unanimous.

Silly Suggestion. A memorandum has been furnished us for inspection, whereby each insurance company that signed the document would bind itself to furnish the projector of the scheme with periodic information relating to the company's affairs for the purpose of publication in the daily press !!

Fires of 1898 Classified. During 1897 there were 2,098 fires where the estimated loss in each case amounted to not less than \$10,000, and the largest loss by any one fire was \$2,300,000 at Pittsburg, Pa., in May.

These fires are shown in the subjoined classification as given in the reports of the New York *Commercial Bulletin*.

	\$10,000 to \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$30,000	\$30,000 to \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$75,000	\$75,000 to \$100,000	\$100,000 to \$200,000	\$200,000 to \$2,300,000	Totals
January..	105	46	41	30	9	9	8	249
February...	82	35	25	25	8	10	4	188
March.....	82	39	17	21	4	11	0	184
April.....	76	50	17	19	8	6	8	184
May.....	73	23	23	18	11	6	5	163
June.....	60	32	23	12	2	8	5	153
July.....	54	27	24	9	2	12	4	132
August.....	58	32	18	16	5	8	5	142
September...	67	34	23	27	11	6	8	176
October.....	81	33	24	15	7	13	11	184
November....	71	38	20	12	10	11	4	166
December....	84	29	29	24	5	15	6	192
Totals.....	895	418	284	228	82	115	74	2094

Banks Liable for certain acts of President. The President of the Bank of Minneapolis caused hand bills to be issued offering \$500 for information leading to arrest of a defaulting teller. One Griffen gave this information, and being refused payment by the Board he sued for the reward, and was awarded a verdict. The bank defended the suit on the ground that the President had received no authority to offer this reward. On being appealed the verdict was upheld, the Court deciding that the act of a President is the act of the corporation in the absence of a by-law restricting his power in making contracts in the name of the Company.