

National Trust Company, Limited

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The Barber & Ellis Co., Limited
TORONTO

THE FIRE WASTE.

Editor, Monetary Times:—

Sir,—I write you for the purpose of saying a word or two on the present very unfortunate state of things in the insurance way, and I hope you will use your powerful pen to make our people see that instead of going forward, as we ought to be, we are going backward, as a people. I see the statement in print that this country and the United States lost over a hundred and sixty-three millions of dollars last year by fires. And instead of the year 1900 getting better, it has got worse, for this loss is greater than the year before. Now, sir, this is pretty serious business. It is not good for a people to work hard and lay by if fire-raisers steal our savings away from us. I believe there must be some incendiarism in this, for I do not see how else such great losses by fire can be. Could not stricter laws about building do something to make these losses smaller, besides?

I saw in some paper last year that the expenses of insurance companies were getting larger, and where there used to be twenty and twenty-five cents in the dollar, they have got swelled up to thirty or thirty-five. No it seems to me that there can be no necessity for so much expense to do the business. It does not cost some of the smaller companies so much to do their business, and you would think the big ones might do it for less money. There might be some economy in the expenses. But now since the Ottawa fire and the Montreal fire, the Association of Insurance Companies have put up the rates and may be they think this is the best way to get even. But I think to get the fires down and the expenses down is a better plan, and I think the rates were high enough before for people who are in mercantile business to pay them. And I say try economy, and pay attention to the causes of fires. If the Americans are reckless and extravagant, that should not be for us to imitate. We are more economical folks most ways. I hope you will write a strong article and tell the people how much they are losing. They think it is only the companies that lose, but what hurts the companies must hurt the people's pockets.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,
ECONOMY.

Stratford, March 9th, 1901.

RETURNING GOODS.

Editor, Monetary Times:—

Sir,—This firm having received a printed communication, signed by Mr. Edgar A. Wills, secretary of the Toronto Board of Trade, acting on behalf of the Dry Goods Section of the same, emboldens—nay, justifies, me offering a little, I trust not ill-natured, criticism from the retailer's standpoint.

The circular referred to is on the subject of "Returning Goods and Cancelling Orders," and I am just afraid at this point lest the question, as raised by me, may not develop into a much larger matter than one of taste.

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