

THE JANUARY FIRE LOSS.

The fire loss in January for the United States and Canada, reported by the New York Commercial Bulletin, was \$9,472,000, as compared with \$12,049,700 in 1897, \$11,040,000 in 1896 and \$11,895,600 in 1895. A decrease of \$2,577,700 below the figures of January last year, and of \$1,612,000 below the average of the same month in the last four years, is highly agreeable to the fire insurance companies. The present month, so far, is not promising to be as favourable as January, but it is to be hoped that the initial month of the year will prove to have been a presage of a good year for underwriters and their connections.

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