

665. The business done by the British fire companies resulted in a balance in their favour of \$237,216, being a decrease of \$437,763 as compared with 1885, as shown by the following statement:—

Business done by British companies.

	1885.	1886.
Paid for losses.....	\$1,912,873	\$2,347,433
“ general expenses.....	819,596	872,595
Total.....	\$2,732,469	\$3,220,028
Received for premiums.....	3,407,453	3,457,244
Balance in favour.....	\$ 674,984	\$ 237,216

The business of the last 12 years, 1875 to 1886, has resulted in an excess of payments over receipts of \$17,305, but this adverse balance is due to the disastrous fire at St. John, 1877, where the losses paid by the British companies amounted to four and one-half millions. It appears certain that another year will see the balance reversed.

666. The following is a comparative statement of the business done by American companies in 1885 and 1886:—

By American companies.

	1885.	1886.
Paid for losses.....	\$209,693	\$239,310
“ general expenses.....	86,206	97,438
Total.....	\$295,899	\$336,748
Received for premiums.....	396,683	427,844
Balance in favour.....	\$100,784	\$ 91,096

667. A similar comparative statement of the business done by Canadian companies is found below:—

By Canadian companies.

	1885.	1886.
Paid for losses.....	\$1,985,257	\$2,123,943
“ general expenses.....	917,879	926,299
“ dividends.....	99,896	114,809
Total.....	\$3,003,033	\$3,170,051
Received for premiums.....	3,089,381	3,090,851
“ from other sources.....	123,196	139,223
Total.....	3,212,577	3,230,074
Balance in favour.....	\$209,544	\$60,023