

787. The business done by the British fire companies resulted in a balance in their favour of \$752,956, being an increase of \$393,713, as compared with 1887, as shown by the following statement :—

	1887.	1888.
Paid for losses .....	\$2,335,032	\$2,094,465
“ general expenses .....	999,715	1,011,863
Total .....	<u>\$3,334,747</u>	<u>\$3,106,328</u>
Received from premiums .....	3,693,990	3,859,284
Balance in favour.....	<u>\$ 359,243</u>	<u>\$ 752,956</u>

Business  
done by  
British  
Companies

The adverse balance, which has been in existence every year since 1877, when occurred the disastrous fire at St. John, N.B., when the losses paid by British companies amounted to four and one-half millions, has been at last reversed, there being a favourable balance for the period, at the close of 1888, of \$1,094,894.

788. The following is a comparative statement of the business done by American companies in 1887 and 1888 :—

	1887.	1888.
Paid for losses .....	\$325,160	\$233,075
“ general expenses .....	116,531	111,405
Total .....	<u>\$441,691</u>	<u>\$344,480</u>
Received for premiums .....	441,642	446,768
Balance.....	<u>—\$ 49</u>	<u>+\$102,288</u>

By Ameri  
can Com-  
panies.

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

	1887.	1888.
Paid for losses .....	\$2,397,382	\$2,355,960
“ general expenses..	1,031,697	1,009,168
“ dividends.....	123,423	122,198
Total .....	<u>\$3,552,502</u>	<u>\$3,487,326</u>
Received for premiums .....	\$3,346,969	\$3,348,045
“ from other sources	132,921	136,384
Total .....	<u>3,479,890</u>	<u>3,484,429</u>
Balance .....	<u>—\$72,612</u>	<u>—\$2,897</u>

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dian Com-  
panies.