

Business done by British Companies 982. The business done by the British fire companies resulted in a balance in their favour of \$470,014, being a decrease of \$242,967, as compared with 1890, as shown by the following statement :—

	1890.	1891.
Paid for losses	\$ 2,229,556	\$ 2,553,162
“ general expenses	1,129,596	1,165,995
Total	\$ 3,359,152	\$ 3,719,157
Received from premiums	4,072,133	4,189,171
Balance in favour.....	\$ 712,981	\$ 470,014

The adverse balance, which had been in existence every year since 1877, when occurred the disastrous fire at St. John, N.B., and when the losses paid by British companies amounted to four and one-half millions, was reversed in 1887, when a favourable balance of \$341,395 was shown, which was increased in 1888 to \$1,094,894, further increased in 1889 to \$2,013,022, and now stands at \$ 196,017.

By United States companies. 983. The following is a comparative statement of the business done by United States companies in 1890 and 1891 :—

	1890.	1891.
Paid for losses	\$ 300,917	\$ 411,802
“ general expenses.....	158,996	217,002
Total	\$ 459,913	\$ 628,804
Received for premiums.....	514,317	701,183
Balance.....	+ \$ 54,404	+ \$ 72,379

By Canadian companies. 984. A similar comparative statement of the business done by Canadian companies is found below :—

	1890.	1891.
Paid for losses	\$ 2,254,867	\$ 2,588,894
“ general expenses	1,114,472	1,198,807
“ dividends.....	135,690	145,257
Total.....	\$ 3,505,029	\$ 3,932,958
Received for premiums.....	\$ 3,603,152	\$ 3,586,852
“ from other sources.....	150,161	146,629
Total.....	\$ 3,753,313	\$ 3,733,481
Balance.....	+ \$ 248,284	— \$ 199,477

The Canadian companies received \$1,102,237 in premiums for business done in Canada, and \$1,662,538 for business done in other countries. The percentage of losses paid to premiums received for Canadian business was 70·84, and for business in other countries 70·11.