

1288. The business done by the British fire companies resulted in a balance in their favour of \$452,941, being a decrease of \$17,073, as compared with 1891, as shown by the following statement :

	1891.	1892.
Paid for losses .....	\$ 2,553,162	\$ 2,878,149
“ general expenses.....	1,165,995	1,375,115
Total.....	\$ 3,719,157	\$ 4,253,264
Received from premiums.....	4,189,171	4,706,205
Balance in favour.....	\$ 470,014	\$ 452,941

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 \$341,398 was shown, which was increased in 1888 to \$1,094,894, further increased in 1889 to \$2,013,022, and now stands at \$3,648,958.

1289. The following is a comparative statement of the business done by United States companies in 1891 and 1892 :—

	1891.	1892.
Paid for losses.....	\$ 411,802	\$ 706,903
“ general expenses.....	217,002	319,562
Total.....	\$ 628,804	\$ 1,026,465
Received for premiums.....	701,183	1,009,978
Balance.....	+ \$ 72,379	— \$ 16,487

1290. A similar comparative statement of the business done by Canadian companies is found below :—

	1891.	1892.
Paid for losses .....	\$ 2,588,894	\$ 2,454,822
“ general expenses. . . . .	1,198,807	1,440,995
“ dividends.. . . . .	145,257	128,372
Total.....	\$ 3,932,958	\$ 4,024,189
Received for premiums.....	\$ 3,586,852	\$ 3,579,894
“ from other sources.....	146,629	201,061
Total....	\$ 3,733,481	\$ 3,780,955
Balance.. . . . .	— \$ 199,477	— \$ 243,234

1291. The Canadian companies received \$629,708 in premiums for business done in Canada, and \$1,907,652 for business done in other countries. The percentage of losses paid to premiums re-