

MARCH FIRE LOSSES

Total Destruction Amounts to Nearly Two Million Dollars and Twenty-two Lives

The Monetary Times' estimate of Canada's fire loss during March amounted to \$1,710,756, compared with February loss of \$2,037,386 and \$2,261,414 for the corresponding period of last year. The following is the estimate for March losses:—

Fires exceeding \$10,000	\$1,128,500
Small fires	359,115
Estimates for unreported fires	223,141

\$1,710,756

The following are the monthly totals of the losses by fire during 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913:—

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
January	\$ 1,275,246	\$ 2,250,550	\$ 3,002,650	\$ 3,913,385
February	750,625	941,045	1,640,153	2,037,386
March	1,076,253	852,380	2,261,414	1,710,756
April	1,717,237	1,317,900	1,355,055	
May	2,735,536	2,564,500	2,251,815	
June	1,500,000	1,151,150	4,229,412	
July	6,386,674	5,384,300	1,741,371	
August	1,667,270	920,000	1,164,760	
September	894,125	1,123,550	883,949	
October	2,195,781	580,750	1,416,218	
November	1,943,708	1,506,500	1,184,010	
December	1,444,860	2,866,950	1,769,905	
	\$23,593,315	\$21,459,575	\$22,900,712	\$ 7,661,527

Many Heavy Losses.

The fires at which loss was estimated at \$10,000 and over were as follows:—

Montreal, Que.	Machinery plant	\$ 75,000
Winnipeg, Man.	Oil storage	15,000
Winnipeg, Man.	Two residences	10,000
Montreal, Que.	Hunt Club kennels	10,000
Montreal, Que.	Business block	100,000
Montreal, Que.	Shipping building	75,000
Madoc, Ont.	Business section	20,000
Montreal, Que.	Business block	43,500
Owen Sound, Ont.	Drill shed	20,000
Springhill, N.S.	Store	10,000
Palmerston, Ont.	Malting plant	100,000
Merritton, Ont.	Paper mills	50,000
Vulcan, Alta.	Business section	20,000
Sunderland, Ont.	Business block	25,000
New Liskeard, Ont.	Business block	15,000
Ottawa, Ont.	Woodworking plant	70,000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.	R.C. Cathedral	300,000
Edson, Alta.	Business block	150,000
Govan, Sask.	Store	30,000

The fire waste in each province for the first three months of this year has been estimated as follows:—

Alberta	\$2,257,800
Ontario	1,892,688
Manitoba	813,740
Quebec	768,774
Saskatchewan	618,510
Nova Scotia	497,554
Prince Edward Island	371,222
British Columbia	268,533
New Brunswick	172,706

\$7,661,527

Many Fires Were Preventable.

The structures damaged and destroyed were 82 residences, 33 stores, 13 factories, 8 barns and stables, 7 hotels, 7 business blocks, 4 lumber mills, 4 churches, 3 business sections, 2 warehouses, 2 schools, 2 hospitals, 2 blacksmiths' shops, 2 bakeries, 1 each drill shed, industrial bureau, café, brewery, garage, hunt kennels, station, lime kiln, smoke house, pool room, Young Men's Christian Association, mine plant, malting plant, city hall and icehouse.

There were destroyed 37 horses, 2 mules, 21 cows, 30 sheep, 4 pigs, 120 chickens, 25 tons hay, 10 box cars, 2 passenger cars, 1 oil tank car, 3 street cars, 4 motor boats, 1 steamer.

Of the presumed causes, 9 were attributed to overheated stoves, 8 defective chimneys and flues, 6 furnaces, 3 incendiary, 4 electrical defects, 4 matches, 2 lamps, 2 overheated ovens, 2 overheated stovepipes, 2 oil stoves, 2 spontaneous combustion, 1 each to overheated ironing board, hot poker, ashes, overheated grate, gas heater, gas explosion, sparks, thawing out pipes, gas jet and stove ignited towel.

During March twenty-two lost their lives through fire. The following are the monthly totals compared with 1909, 1910, 1911 and 1912:—

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
January	16	27	27	27	14
February	8	15	12	11	21
March	16	20	18	24	22
April	18	37	20	15	..
May	21	15	28	18	..
June	16	52	13	6	..
July	4	15	110	9	..
August	17	11	22	16	..
September	10	10	13	6	..
October	26	16	17	21	..
November	34	19	20	22	..
December	33	19	17	28	..
Totals	219	256	317	203	57

The fires at which fatalities occurred were:—

Huntingdon, Que.	Burning building	4
Ottawa, Ont.	Burning building	1
Valcartier, Que.	Burning building	1
Tisdale, Sask.	Burning building	1
Saskatoon, Sask.	Burning tent	2
Vancouver, B.C.	Clothing set alight	1
Montreal, Que.	Clothing set alight	1
Westville, N.S.	Burning building	1
Skagway, Y.T.	Burning building	1
Desbarats, Ont.	Burning building	1
Cornwall, Ont.	Burning building	1
Boakview, Ont.	Burning building	1
Montreal, Que.	Lamp explosion	1
Edmonton, Alta.	Clothing set alight	1
Standon, Que.	Clothing set alight	1
Unity, Sask.	Burning building	1
Oshawa, Ont.	Clothing set alight	1

MAY BUILD CANADIAN FACTORY

The directors of the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company are said to have under consideration plans for building a large plant in Canada, possibly in Windsor, for the purpose of handling its orders in the Dominion. If the plan is definitely decided upon it will necessitate an expenditure of around \$350,000, which amount will be taken out of the earnings. The company now has a plant in Montreal, but this is only equipped for repair work and its geographical location is not so well adapted to the requirements of a manufacturing plant as the one the board now has under consideration.

MANCHESTER TAKES CANADIAN GRAIN

The total quantity of wheat to the ports of Liverpool and Manchester for 1912 was 33,785,188 cwts., an increase over 1911 of 4,079,288 cwts., and Canada's share of this trade for 1912 was a total of 8,099,200 cwts., an increase over 1911 of 2,594,700 cwts.

Barley has also increased to Liverpool during the past year, and Manchester received in 1912 its first shipment of barley for several years. The total value of barley from Canada to Lancashire last year was £13,482, and the Manchester share of this amounted to £9,317.

Another grain that shows an increase is oats, the total for Lancashire in 1912 being 2,205,000 cwts., an increase over 1911 of 586,462 cwts. Canada's total consignment of oats to these two ports was 551,200 cwts., an increase of 199,400 cwts. over 1911. The total value of oats from Canada to Lancashire for 1912 amounted to £198,775, and Manchester's proportion of this was £111,775.

Manchester as a grain market has practically no limit for Canadian grains, states Mr. W. G. Egan, trade commissioner at Manchester, owing to the standard of grading and recognized superior quality over all other grains. This is repeated time after time by both the grain dealers and the milling trade, which continues to increase here in Trafford Park at the Manchester docks, and the management of the Manchester Ship Canal Company continue to increase their facilities for the handling of all prospective increased shipments. There is no doubt that in the very near future ship- Manchester port will be a close rival to Liverpool in the grain trade, which will mean for Canada the second and third largest milling districts in the world within forty miles of one another, and on the one direct trade route from Canada to Great Britain.