

Fire Insurance and the Fishing Industry

Mr. A. Z. DeLong of Vancouver, in a recent address on fire insurance as pertaining to the fishing industry, said in part:—

In speaking of hazards generally found in connection with canneries, that of gasoline particularly comes to our notice. In many canneries gasoline is stored in close proximity to the main plant. This constitutes a severe hazard, with the added possibility of making insurance policies void.

Mostly the gasoline fishing boats and tenders procure their fuel supply from the cannery out of which they operate, which necessitate large quantities being on storage. As those who are in the habit of daily handling this liquid rarely consider it a hazard, where feasible, a separate wharf for the storing and handling of all oils should be erected, or other proper precautions taken for the handling of the same. A point to bear in mind is that metal drums are not sufficient protection and that empty containers should be more carefully handled than full ones, because the danger from these is greater.

Care should be taken, also, in the handling of lacquer. Not more than one day's supply should be kept in the cannery building, and in no case should it be used or handled when any fire or open light is burning in the vicinity.

Precautions to be Taken.

The following precautions and suggestions are brought particularly to your attention:—

All electrical equipment should be properly installed and inspected periodically; metal drip pans should be provided for all bearings; steam pipes should be at least two inches from woodwork and around main steam lines covered with asbestos slag and wrapped; lamp or lantern room for fitting and storing lamps or lanterns should be in a separate building; no smoking should be allowed in buildings, and signs to this effect should be freely posted. If sanitary cans are not used, soldering equipment should be so arranged that any hazard from the same would be eliminated. Woodwork in and around all soldering machines and furnaces should be protected by metal at least two feet on all sides of fire doors, and brought up at the back to meet the brickwork. All pots should have water pans under and same kept filled with water when not in use. Benches should be covered with tin or other metal and should be bent up at least six inches at the back of the bench. Metal stacks from soldering machines or pots should extend to not less than three feet above the apex of the roof and properly protected where passing through or near woodwork.

The blacksmith's forge should be set out from the

wall or other woodwork and floor protected with metal and metal hood provided. Gasoline or naphtha engines should not have their tanks attached to the base of the engine or hung under the wharf or cannery. Supply tank should be buried not less than four feet under ground and not within five feet of any building. The engine should not be used below the grade or first floor of the building, and the gasoline should be forced directly from the tank to the engine by pump. The engine room should be well ventilated at both the floor and ceiling. The plant at all times should be kept clean and a daily inspection of same during the packing season should be instituted for that purpose. All fire fighting apparatus should be given the best of care and always ready for instant use should fire occur.

Canneries having smoke-house in connection therewith should have proper arrangements for taking care of this hazard. If possible, the smoke-house should be of fire resisting construction, and communications, if any, to main building should be protected with standard fire doors. The sill in openings on firing floor should be at least twelve inches in height and a drain should be provided to carry oil drippings away from the plant. Steam jet should be provided for fire protection.

Arrangement of boilers is an important item. They should be properly set and encased in brick. It is preferable to locate boiler house more than twenty-five feet from the main buildings. Metal stack should be at least twelve inches clear from all woodwork and wood floor not nearer than six feet from boiler front. Web or net tarring vats, especially if fire heat is used, introduce a distinct hazard. This should never be attempted in or near the main buildings, nor should freshly tarred or oiled nets be stored in cannery or within one hundred feet thereof. The oiling of nets is a serious hazard and great care should be taken in this regard.

Fire Protection

The question of fire protection is one that enters largely into the matter of your rate. In cannery plants the water supplies would depend largely upon the size of the plant and the surrounding conditions. There should be a good gravity or pump supply. If gravity supply, to be of sufficient capacity to insure the maintenance of the required number of fire streams, with fifty pounds flowing pressure at the nozzle, for a period of at least two hours. If pump supply, the pump should be of not less than 500 gallons per minutes, one of the Underwriters Standard, and should be equipped with automatic regulator, lift to be not more than twelve feet, steam pressure to be not less than fifty pounds, to be maintained for the pump at all