

JULY FIRE RECORD IS AGAIN SATISFACTORY

Loss About Same as in June, Which Was Lowest Month This Year—Seven Months Total Slightly Below 1919

FIRE losses in Canada totalled \$1,426,850 in July, according to *The Monetary Times'* record. This is the lowest for the year, with the exception of June, when the figure was \$1,424,319. It exceeds the July losses in 1917 and 1919, but is less than half the exceptional figure of \$3,369,684 in July, 1918, when several large fires, including the business section of the town of Graham, Ont., and the Toronto warehouse of Sanderson, Percy and Co. took place. The fire loss for the first seven months of 1920 is \$14,409,113, compared with \$14,482,326 for the same period in 1919. The July loss is made up as follows:—

Fire exceeding \$10,000	\$ 885,000
Small fires reported	41,850
Estimate of unreported fires	500,000
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	\$1,426,850

The Monetary Times' record of the past four years shows the following monthly losses:—

Month.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
January . . .	\$ 1,918,660	\$ 2,688,556	\$ 3,915,290	\$ 2,637,850
February . .	2,009,953	2,243,762	1,091,834	1,895,575
March	2,050,650	1,682,286	2,154,085	1,793,200
April	1,317,714	3,240,187	1,080,070	3,229,500
May	1,163,110	3,570,014	1,785,130	2,001,819
June	1,184,627	3,080,982	3,337,530	1,424,319
July	1,101,734	3,369,684	1,118,377	1,426,850
August	1,230,183	3,110,445	1,374,495
September . .	1,301,700	917,286	1,940,272
October	704,605	5,119,145	1,023,288
November . . .	959,049	1,059,580	2,339,870
December . . .	5,144,100	1,733,917	2,047,496
Totals	\$20,086,085	\$31,815,844	\$23,207,647	\$14,409,113

List of Large Fires

The following is a list of fires in which the loss was \$10,000 or over:—

Niagara Falls, Ont., July 7, boarding-house, \$35,000.
Calgary, Alta., July 5, Western Printing and Lithographing Co., \$100,000.
St. Stephen, N.B., July 10, Mann Axe Factory, \$100,000.
Toronto, Ont., July 11, L. G. Randle's Garage, \$25,000.
Waterloo, Ont., July 11, Bauer's shoddy mill, \$20,000.
Winnipeg, Man., July 10, Crescent Furniture Co., \$50,000.
Coaldale, Alta., July 14, J. B. Shimek's warehouse, \$30,000.
Maisonneuve, Que., July 21, J. P. Abel, Fortin & Co., Ltd., \$25,000.
Vancouver, B.C., July 9, Continental Motor Co., \$25,000.
St. John, N.B., July 20, R. D. Patterson's Chemical fertilizer plant, \$100,000.
Cobalt, Ont., July 24, Moose Lake Lumber Co., \$10,000.
Ladner, B.C., July 25, Currie-Williams Cannery, \$100,000.
Medicine Hat, Alta., July 23, Saskatchewan Bridge and Iron Co., \$75,000.
Niagara Falls, Ont., Incline Building, \$30,000.
North Sydney, N.S., July 25, Warehouse, \$60,000.
St. Thomas, Ont., July 29, two-storey building, \$100,000.

While there were 16 fires with a loss of \$10,000 and over, as against 8 in June, \$100,000 was the largest estimated loss for July, whereas in June there were losses of about \$200,000 each at Sault Ste. Marie and Ayr, Ontario.

Analysis of Causes

Among the causes reported were: Sparks, 1; oil lamp, 2; electrical storms, 9; spontaneous combustion, 1; defective

heater, 1; bush fires, 2; gasoline, 1; incendiarism, 1; matches, 1; dry weather, 1.

The following structures were destroyed or damaged last month:—Residences, 13; office buildings, 8; factories, 7; barns, 8; sawmills, 6; stores, 5; garages, 5; churches, 2; farm buildings, 1; stations, 1.

Deaths From Fire

Sixteen deaths during the month were directly due to fires, the following being the circumstances:—

Kingston, Ont., July 14, struck by lightning	1
Winnipeg, Man., July 30, suffocation	2
Fleming, Sask., July 2, explosion	2
Welland, Ont., July 26, playing with matches	1
Edmonton, Alta., July 2, mother and four children burnt to death	5
Brandon, Man., July 5, explosion	2
Belleville, Ont., July 18, burnt in a burning house.....	1
Mitchell, Ont., July 9, explosion	1
Hamilton, Ont., July 11, touched a high voltage wire....	1

Total 16

Comparison of Deaths

Fatalities this year will probably equal or exceed last year's figure, as indicated by the following comparative table covering the past 8 years:—

Month.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
January	14	26	3	10	21	28	13	22
February	21	18	11	23	19	87	26	30
March	22	27	23	23	20	34	9	35
April	11	22	14	6	15	7	27	8
May	33	8	5	14	12	10	15	13
June	18	12	2	6	9	9	28	15
July	9	8	13	268	19	6	11	15
August	29	3	14	30	12	7	24	..
September	27	9	27	6	21	13	23	..
October	15	9	7	39	23	11	16	..
November	24	14	12	12	21	3	14	..
December	13	19	11	94	15	26
Totals	236	175	142	531	207	241	206	138

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS IN CANADA

Reports from over 5,100 employers to the Dominion Headquarters of the Employment Service of Canada, Department of Labour, indicate that, disregarding loss of time due to strikes, there was another increase in the volume of employment during the week of June 26, as compared with returns from the same firms for the preceding week. A substantial increase had been anticipated, but the returns show that the actual increase exceeded that anticipated. For the following week these firms estimated that they would have a net decrease in staffs of 1,140 persons or two per cent., the anticipated decline being attributable chiefly to estimated curtailment of operations in the iron and steel group because of a shortage of fuel. In comparison with their returns for January 17, these firms reported that they had made very considerable additions to the number of persons on their payrolls.

Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta reported increases as compared with the returns for the preceding week, while in all other provinces decreases were reported, that in Quebec being the most substantial. For the succeeding week increases were anticipated in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, while of the decreases expected in the remaining provinces that in Ontario was the most noteworthy. In comparison with their returns for January, 17 firms in all the provinces reported considerable increases to their staffs.