

THE FEBRUARY FIRE LOSS.

Last month's severe weather has its sequel in a considerable lengthening of the list of the principal recorded fire losses. The subjoined compilation runs to 70 fires, compared with a total of 36 in the list for February, 1913, and 46 in that for January, 1914. The heaviest property loss of the month, it seems, will be that on a factory building in Richmond Street West, Toronto, destroyed on February 25th, with a loss to the insurance companies of \$105,000. From the insurance point of view this loss was, however, exceeded by the R. McKay, departmental store fire at Hamilton, which produced a loss to the companies of \$133,000, this, fortunately being a considerably lower figure than had at first been anticipated. At the month-end, there was a considerable loss on a block of offices at Moncton, N.B., the details of which are not available at the present writing, and the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary had a wing burnt. The penitentiary property was not insured. Losses of \$100,000 and upwards reported are three in number compared with five in January, and four in February, 1913, when the Port Hawkesbury cold storage fire gave an insurance loss of \$212,000. Six losses of between \$50,000 and \$100,000 are reported, the same number as in January, 1914, and comparing with four in February, 1913.

HOTEL AND CHURCH FIRES.

The feature of the month is the large number of hotel and church fires. Eight hotel fires and one at a Salvation Army refuge, and six church fires, including a convent, chapel and penitentiary chapel are included in the following list. Several of the hotel fires took place, as the majority of hotel fires take place, at night, but fortunately no lives were lost.

With regard to these monthly compilations of fires it is to be noted that they do not profess to give the exact amount of either property or insurance loss in each case. They merely represent the best information at our disposal and a good deal of painstaking labour, and are published for the purpose of acting as a guide, as reliable as it is possible to make it, to the general trend of the fire losses, and their main developments from month to month.

When it is said that the fire waste in Canada averages so many dollars a minute nobody with any statistical knowledge supposes that the figures given are literally and absolutely accurate down to the last cent. The figures are approximately and relatively accurate and are used in this way to enable the extent of the fire loss to be graphically depicted. Probably it is a matter of sheer impossibility to arrive at absolutely accurate figures of property losses by fire in Canada year by year, and the difficulties which surround the task of getting an estimate even approximately accurate are to be seen in a comparison of

two records and of the differences in their figures. That record is likely to be the most accurate which while compiled with care, does not profess to tell too much.

Following is a list of the principal recorded fires of the month:—

Feb. 1914	PLACE	RISK	Loss
1	Fort Frances, Ont.	Stores	12,500
1	Luseland, Sask.	Business buildings	21,000
1	Brooks, Alta.	Stores	11,000
1	Montreal	Mfg. premises, etc.	*60,000
2	St. John, N.B.	S. A. refuge	
2	Kenora, Ont.	Hotel	20,000
2	Alvinston, Ont.	Church	12,000
2	Edmonton, Alta.	Business building	7,500
2	St. John, N.B.	Business building	30,000
3	Ottawa, Ont.	Residence	9,000
3	St. Hilaire, Que.	Hotel	7,000
3	Irvine, Alta.	Stores	8,000
3	Edmonton, Alta.	Furniture warehouse	12,000
4	Port Arthur, Ont.	Store	27,450
5	Edmonton, Alta.	Business premises	10,000
5	Leduc, Alta.	Railway depot	5,000
5	Orillia, Ont.	Summer hotel	8,000
6	Galt, Ont.	Factory	*65,000
7	Banff, Alta.	Hotel and other	20,000
8	Winnipeg	Factory premises	14,000
8	Toronto	Dwellings	5,000
9	Toronto	Dwellings	6,000
9	Montreal	Stores	10,000
9	Camrose, Alta.	Stores and residence	20,000
9	Comber, Ont.	Residence	5,000
10	Hamiota, Man.	Church	8,000
11	Quebec City	Tannery	*26,000
11	Toronto	Publishing premises	20,000
11	Calgary, Alta.	Shoe store	30,000
11	North Cobalt, Ont.	Residence	7,000
12	Montreal	Fur warehouse, etc.	40,000
12	Montreal	Fur warehouse	20,000
12	Eastport, N.B.	School	5,000
12	Kamouraska, Que.	Church	*30,000
13	Peterboro, Ont.	Mail car	12,000
13	St. Thomas, Ont.	Hotel	25,000
13	Moncton, N.B.	Church	*22,600
14	Vancouver, B.C.	Store	8,000
14	Montreal	Potatoes in cars	7,000
14	Francis, Sask.	Hotel and store	37,000
16	North Bay, Ont.	Residence	6,000
16	N. Westminister, B.C.	Woodworking plant	75,000
16	Sarnia, Ont.	Coal chutes	40,000
17	Okotoks, Alta.	Business bldgs., etc.	60,000
17	Hamilton, Ont.	Departmental store	*133,000
17	Prescott, Ont.	Steamer	20,000
18	Vankleek Hill, Ont.	Sawmill	8,000
19	Linwood, Ont.	Store and bank	18,000
19	Agincourt, Ont.	Water tank	15,000
20	Quebec City	Convent chapel and buildings	47,700
21	St. Hyacinthe, Que.	Academy	*30,000
21	Toronto	Business building	10,000
21	Petrolia, Ont.	Motor plant	
22	North Bay, Ont.	Rink	*5,250
22	Cumberland House, Man.	Trading post	32,000
22	Bow Island, Alta.	Business bldgs., etc.	34,000
23	Montreal	Mfg. premises	80,000
24	Toronto	School	45,000
25	Montreal	Stores, etc.	12,000
25	Toronto	Mfg. premises	*105,000
25	St. John, N.B.	Hotel	10,000
25	Omamee, Ont.	Armories	10,000
25	Moncton, N.B.	Market building	100,000
25	London, Ont.	Factory	8,000
25	Cardston, Alta.	Residence	5,000
25	Cornwall, Ont.	Hotel	5,000
26	St. Vincent de Paul, Que.	Penitentiary	75,000
27	Toronto	Dwellings	15,000
27	Sackville, N.B.	Bowling alleys, etc.	20,000

*Insurance loss.