

**CANADIAN FIRE RECORD**

**Fire at Black Lake, P.Q.** On the 17th instant, a fire occurred in the mines of the Asbestos Corporation of Canada, Limited, the principal damage was confined to the destruction of the derrick and hoist houses. Insurance as follows: North America, \$26,125; Providence Wash., \$19,250; Firemen's Fund, \$8,375; National of Hartford, \$24,900; Employers, \$20,750; Firemen's Und., \$10,000; Fidelity Phoenix, \$15,000; Century, \$9,807; Aetna, \$16,000; St. Paul, \$8,997; British Colonial, \$10,000; Rochester Und., \$10,000; British Empire, \$10,000; Queensland, \$2,231; Great American, \$4,150; New York Und., \$3,000; Mount Royal, \$10,375; National of Paris, \$4,150; Home, \$13,862; London Mutual, \$14,525; Lloyds, \$78,850; Richmond & Drummond, \$20,750; North River, \$28,013; United States, \$20,750; Missisquoi & Rouville, \$4,150; Stanstead & Sherbrooke, \$8,300; Springfield, \$2,500. Total, \$405,000. Loss about \$45,000.

**Fire at Three Rivers, P.Q.** On the 14th instant, the large stable of the St. Maurice Paper Co. on the Chemin des Chevaux was completely destroyed by fire together with 24 horses, 50 loads of hay and one load of oats. Loss about \$20,000, partly covered.

**Fire Near Brockville.** On the 16th instant a fire destroyed the stone residence of W. R. Collier, in Augusta Township. The building was a substantial structure erected a hundred and fifteen years ago.

**Fire at Trenton, Ont.** On the 14th instant, a fire destroyed the residence of E. J. Belaire, Queen St., and also the residence of Mr. J. Fitzpatrick adjoining, together with contents of both.

**Fire at Dominion Park, Montreal.** By the fire which occurred on the 10th instant (already reported) in the Mystic Rill, Dominion Park, by which eight persons lost their lives, the following companies are interested: Springfield, \$4,000; Niagara, \$2,500; Hartford, \$2,500; Lloyds, \$52,000; Mount Royal, \$2,500; Queensland, \$1,000; Royal, \$2,000; British Colonial, 4,000; Phoenix of London, \$2,000; National Fire & Marine, \$10,000; Guardian, \$5,500; North British & Mer., \$2,500; Northern, \$2,000; London Guarantee, \$3,000; Union of Canton, \$2,500; Hamilton Fire, \$2,000. Total, 100,000. Loss about \$30,000.

**Fire at Strome, Alta.** On the 8th instant, the following property was destroyed by a conflagration: A. E. Latimer, hardware store; H. W. Storey, hardware store; G. A. F. Sherrin, drug stock; Mrs. James, drug store; H. W. Schenk, harness stock and

machinery; J. A. McLean, pool room. Insurance as follows: St. Paul, \$1,000; Caledonian, \$2,500; Hartford, \$4,000; Royal, \$2,460; General, \$3,000; Ocean, \$2,000; Mercantile Fire & Marine (American Central), \$14,000; North Empire, \$8,000; Northern, \$3,000; North Brit. & Mer., \$1,300; National of Hartford, \$1,500; Aetna, \$1,000; Springfield, \$100; Canadian Fire, \$3,000. Total, \$45,160. Loss total.

**THE RISE OF BUILDING COSTS**

The general expectation was, when war demands were falling off and peace activities were going up, that prices and costs would soon be coming down. Nothing had been so completely put out of joint as building for peace purposes and providing material for it, and there was a natural pressure for putting it up again when war activities and demands were over. The result has by no means been a reduction in prices or costs, but rather the contrary. Naturally there had been a falling off in the production of material as well as the use of it, and in the labor force employed in building. Carpenters, masons and bricklayers, away from armament and munition factories, were more or less idle and not well paid, and when the peace turn came they were eager to make up for it.

The consequence is that the demand for new building became urgent while the means for increasing the supply could not be suddenly and rapidly developed. The result has been a great deal of obstruction in the effort to hasten construction to meet the need for dwelling and industrial purposes. If contracts were made, based on estimates and calculations, they were liable to be upset by the workmen not sticking to their bargain for wages, but demanding more. There has just been a strike of bricklayers for a raise of wages from \$7.50 to \$10 a day while their employers had jobs on their hands in which they could not afford an advance to more than \$8. This is only an illustrative example of the tendency running through all the lines of getting out material, preparing it for use and making use of it.

The Building Trades Employers' Association has been considering a stop to this deranging process by holding up their active operations. That is liable to be a calamity to many others besides the builders and their workers, an injury to many and a benefit to none; but it seems that a plain lesson can be learned in these days only by hard experience instead of easy calculation.—Journal of Commerce.