

## RECENT FIRES

**Bush Fires Have Been Raging in British Columbia, Northern Ontario and New Brunswick, Considerable Damage Done—Several Other Places Have Suffered a Heavy Loss**

**F**OREST fires are reported in several parts of Canada, and some damage has resulted during the past week. A serious one near Glace Bay swept over Crown timber lands and Dominion coal property on August 21st and 22nd, but was extinguished by rain. South Porcupine, Cobalt and Bourke, in northern Ontario, were also threatened early this week, the flames coming to within a half-mile of South Porcupine before the wind died down. Rains have relieved the situation, but northern Ontario is still dry. In northern Manitoba, Moose Lake and Sturgeon Landing were in danger, and two trading posts were destroyed early this week; these are in the district along the Hudson Bay Railway. Another severe fire in Manitoba was in the Mulvihill district. Bad fires are also reported in British Columbia, both on the mainland and on Vancouver Island.

**Banff, Alta.**—Many bad fires have been raging around Banff. Village of Kananaskis and Mount Assiniboine badly damaged.

**Cobourg, Ont.**—August 21—Barn, owned by Joseph Greer, Kingston Road, was destroyed.

**Edenbridge, Sask.**—August 13—Two stores belonging to H. Boudy and Mr. Shore were destroyed. The loss was partly covered by insurance.

**Hamilton, Ont.**—August 21—Two frame houses occupied by E. Williams, Fairfield Avenue, were destroyed. The flames spread to nearby dwellings, which were slightly damaged.

**Hatley, Que.**—August 14—Buildings on the farm of H. L. Moulton were completely destroyed. The fire was caused by lightning.

**Hyde Park, Man.**—August 24—Barn of Robert Kennedy, 7th concession, was destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$8,000.

**Marmora, Ont.**—August 20—Office, sheds, planing mills and kiln, owned by the Pearce Co., Ltd., was damaged by fire. The loss is estimated at \$25,000, partly covered by insurance.

**Moncton, N.B.**—August 23—Residence of Stanley Hanson, High Street, was destroyed, with contents.

August 24—Brunswick Hotel was badly damaged when a fire started in the kitchen. The building and contents were estimated to be worth \$400,000.

**Montreal, Que.**—August 17—Store belonging to Wm. Dube, 197 St. Jerome Street, was damaged to an extent of \$400.

August 18—Fire broke out on the fourth floor of the harness and trunk manufactory of Lamontagne, Ltd., 338 Notre Dame Street. The fire is believed to have been caused by a cigarette butt. Mattress factory of Messrs. Rolland, Freres and Co., 927 Coloniale Street, was damaged. The fire was caused from the picking machine. The damage is \$5,000, with no insurance.

August 23—Victoria Jubilee Bridge, connecting Montreal with the south shore of the St. Lawrence, was damaged by fire. The city incinerator plant at the corner of St. Patrick Street and Atwater Avenue was destroyed by fire.

**Mulvihill, Man.**—Twenty houses, a schoolhouse, crops and stock were destroyed, with three fatalities. Fire was caused by dry weather.

**Newcastle, N.B.**—August 21—Lumber yards of the Edward Sinclair Lumber Co. destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$300,000, partly covered by insurance.

**Odessa, Ont.**—August 18—A woodworking shop belonging to Mr. Babcock, residence of Mrs. Kelly and a black-mith shop were damaged by fire. The loss is estimated at \$6,000, with no insurance.

**Ottawa, Ont.**—August 20—Store belonging to Darwin's, Ltd., was the scene of a fire when an electric iron was left connected. An estimate of the loss is not yet known.

**Peterboro, Ont.**—August 18—Peterboro' Lock Works damaged by fire. The fire is believed to have been caused by a spark on the roof.

**Saint Tite, Que.**—August 19—Fire destroyed the boot and shoe factory of C. Trotter and a number of stores and houses. The loss is estimated at \$200,000.

**South Vancouver, B.C.**—August 16—Plant of the Champion Shingle Mill was damaged by fire. The loss is \$20,000.

**Simcoe, Ont.**—August 25—Storehouse of Wm. Jaques and Son, wholesale rag dealers, was damaged by fire. The loss is estimated at \$20,000, with insurance of \$5,000 on the building. The storehouse of Edmonds and Co. caught fire and suffered a loss of \$3,000.

**Vancouver, B.C.**—Bush fires have been raging along North Thompson River. Many ranches have been destroyed. Estimated loss, \$100,000. Business section of town of Chilliwack damaged with a loss of \$60,000.

August 11—Columbia cigar store, 70 Hastings Street West, was damaged by fire to the extent of \$4,000. The loss is covered by insurance.

**Verdun, Que.**—August 19—Barn at the Protestant Hospital for Insane was destroyed. Nine horses were burned to death.

**Westmount, Que.**—August 14—Fire damaged the Metcalf Apartments, Cote St. Antoine Road. Estimated loss, \$10,000, with insurance of \$100,000 in the Yorkshire Insurance Co.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING FIRES

**Port Coquitlam, B.C.**—August 5—Business section of this town damaged to the extent of \$100,000, with insurance of \$48,800. The fire is believed to have been caused by a spark from the roof.

## PREPAYMENT ON SHIPMENTS TO CANADA

Prepayment of freight rates to Canada on goods shipped from points within the United States was suspended from August 18 to December 16, 1920, by a decision of the Inter-State Commerce Commission handed down on August 17. The commission held up tariff schedules putting such rates into effect. This decision was the result of the complicated foreign exchange situation. With the Canadian dollar at a discount as compared with the United States dollar, it is to the advantage of the shipper to pay for the transportation at the Canadian end. With the lower Canadian money under schedules filed with the Inter-State Commerce Commission, which are now suspended, the railroads would be allowed to collect charges in advance in the higher United States currency.

The tariffs containing new schedules of individual and joint rates were filed with the commission by F. A. Leland and W. J. Kelly as agents, and were to become effective on August 18. The order of the commission on this subject reads as follows:—

"It appearing that said schedules provide certain rules and regulations requiring the prepayment of freight charges on traffic from points in United States to points in Canada and the rights and interests of the public appearing to be injuriously affected thereby, it is the opinion of the commission that the effective date of the said schedules contained in said tariffs should be postponed pending said hearing and decision thereon. It is ordered that the operation of the said schedules contained in said tariffs be suspended and that the use of the rates, charges, regulations and practices therein stated be deferred upon inter-state traffic until the 16th day of December, 1920, unless otherwise ordered by the commission and no charge shall be made in such rates, charges, regulations and practices during the said period of suspension unless authorized by special permission of the commission. It is ordered that the rates and charges thereby sought to be changed shall not be increased and the regulations and practices thereby sought to be altered shall not be changed by any subsequent tariff or schedule until this investigation and suspension proceeding has been disposed of or until the period of suspension and any extension thereof has expired, unless authorized by special permission of the commission."