

IT IS A PATRIOTIC DUTY TO PREVENT FIRES

If we were to consider that EVERY FIRE IS A CRIME in our country, as it is in some countries of Europe; and if those in whose homes, barns or places of business where fires originate should be held responsible for their acts when those acts result in injury to their neighbours; or are the result of gross carelessness, culpable neglect or mischievous intent, there would be fewer fires. The Fire Tax would be less, and Canada would be richer to the extent of Millions of dollars every year.

The elementary principle of justice that an individual should be responsible to others for his acts when those acts result in injury to his neighbour is as old as the Mosaic Law. The liability for fire is recorded in Exodus xxii. 6:

"If fire break out, and catch in thorns, so that the stacks of corn, or the standing corn, . . . be consumed therewith; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution."

The fire waste in Ontario, not including forest fires, for the year:

1916 was \$16,520,206, caused by 10,279 fires.

1917 was \$10,365,539, caused by 9,681 fires.

1918 was \$14,856,329, caused by 9,588 fires.

This means a tax of \$6.00 per capita for every man, woman, and child in the Province; or \$30.00 a year for a family of five. It means that the fire waste of Ontario exceeds \$40,000 every day.

In normal times the fire waste in five of the principal countries of Europe averaged 33c. per capita.

Clean-up the Barn

It is an easy matter for you to put your farm barn in what might reasonably be called perfect physical condition as regards fire hazards if it is well built, on good foundations, metal or other non-inflammable roof, properly ventilated, painted, has no stoves or fire heat, electric wiring *approved by Hydro Inspector*, not used as a garage; no gasoline, coal oil or other volatile oil kept in it, proper hooks for lanterns, *is kept shut and locked at night*, and equipped with *properly installed lightning rods*; or if a metal roof is used see that it is properly grounded.

NO SMOKING IN THE BARN

It is assumed that 50 per cent. of fires with "Cause unknown" in barns can be charged to the foolishness of smoking in them.

Loose Matches

Matches should not be carried loose in a man's pocket. A match may easily be dropped in the hay or other inflammable material and if stepped on cause a fire. Avoid the danger of burning up your buildings and stock by not carrying matches loose.



Make sure that the sparks are out.