is caused by carelessness is a preventable fire. To emphasize the fact that Canada's phenomenal loss is the outcome of want of care in connection with little things I have taken at random the record of dwelling fires in Canada during the years 1911, 1912 and 1913. Of 10,000 outbreaks, the causes of which were known, 71.9 per cent. might have been prevented by ordinary care. The record runs as follows:—

Cause of fire.	No. of outbreaks.	Per cent. of the total.
Carelessness with matches	1664	16.6
Defective flues	1601	16.0
Coal stoves and furnaces	964	9.6
Defective electric wiring	762	7.6
Coal oil lamps	409	4.1
Gasoline and other volatiles	354	3.5
Curtains and gas jets	350	3.5
Coal oil stoves	205	2.0
Candles	241	2.4
Ashes and rubbish	164	1.6
Cigars and cigarettes	149	1.5
Sparks on clothes	113	1.1
Electrical appliances	92	.9
Spontaneous combustion in rubbish	84	.8
Fireworks	37	.3
Incubators and brooders	4	.0
Total preventable	7193	71.9
Sparks on roofs	754	7.5
Lightning	618	6.2
Incendiary	355	3.6
Exposure and conflagrations	1080	10.8
Total unpreventable	2817	28.1

With the eradication of the common causes of fires in dwellings, due to carelessness, ignorance, bad management or bad habits, my article will deal next week.

TORONTO'S FINANCIAL POSITION

About $26,250,000 will be spent by the city of Toronto during the present fiscal year. In future all the funds of revenue-producing or self-carrying projects will be placed in specific accounts by themselves, which will eliminate the possibility of any deficits having to be made up out of the general city funds.

The bonded debt of the city at the end of the past year was $61,118,100, the city's general debt being $46,883,921. Its share of the cost of local improvement works, including the Toronto Street Railway and West Toronto, is $5,490,639, and the ratepayers' local improvement apportionment is $8,743,539, but from this indebtedness must be deducted $12,806,119, the amount of the sinking funds on hand. Of the above debt, a portion was expended in works and services which are revenue-producing, or specially rated.

Debentures to the amount of $18,452,491 have been authorized but not negotiated, while general and local improvement debentures aggregating $760,121 were retired last year, and general debentures amounting to $14,415,385 were issued. The value of the bonds to mature this year is $888,614.

The value of the property and other assets possessed by the city should not be overlooked when the debt is being considered. The estimated value of this property is over $25,000,000, exclusive of the properties transferred to the Harbor Board, and a large amount of it is revenue-producing.

Inspection of all boilers in use in Ontario, apart from those in private residences, is provided for in legislation introduced in the Ontario House.

Mr. A. Browning, of the Northern Assurance Company, has issued his annual card showing the annual requirement to be complied with by fire insurance companies in Canada operating under Dominion licenses, for the benefit of insurance managers. Mr. Browning's office is in the board of trade building, Montreal. The headquarters of the Northern Assurance Company is in London, England, the head office for Canada being at Montreal.

WINNIPEG PAINT AND GLASS COMPANY

Reference to the eleventh annual report of the Winnipeg Paint and Glass Company has already appeared in *The Monetary Times*. The balance sheet as at January 31st, 1914, shows current liabilities amounting to $534,903, as follow:—Bank loans, Winnipeg, $450,512.62; accounts payable, $23,361.63; bills payable, $43,189.61; taxes payable, $339.86; and dividend on preferred stock, $17,500.

The company has a reserve of $59,493, made up of depreciation contingencies and discounts. The authorized capital is $1,000,000, half in preference stock and half in common, and all paid up. There is contingent liability amounting to $678,841. This is divided as follows:—Liability on bills discounted, $652,179, and on investment, $26,661. The company has a substantial array of property and assets.

REGINA CITY APPOINTS COMMISSIONER.

Mr. Norman A. Ruse, who has been assistant commissioner of the Board of Trade, Regina, has been appointed publicity commissioner for that city and will begin his duties immediately.

Mr. Ruse has been in Regina for four years, previously being a reporter on the Evening Citizen of that city. Before going to Regina, Mr. Ruse had five years' newspaper experience in Ontario, having been on the staff of the Hamilton Times.

In considering the applications for this position, of which there were four, Mr. Ruse was the unanimous choice of the committee, as it was agreed on all hands that he had demonstrated his fitness for the work during his connection with the local board of trade. Mr. Ruse brings to his new post an experience that ought to stand him in excellent stead, and there is little doubt that he will duplicate his previous good work

WILLIAM NEILSON, LIMITED

An analysis of the financial statement of William Neilson, Limited, has already appeared in *The Monetary Times*. The company's annual meeting was held the other day, at which some interesting comparisons regarding the growth of the company's business were presented. For instance, the first year's ice cream business amounted to less than one-eighth of the smallest day's sales the company had in July or August of last year. The increase in this branch of the business in 1913 was in itself as large as the total business done in the year 1907. The year just passed has been one of considerable anxiety on the part of most manufacturing concerns because of the unusual stringency in the domestic money markets, and in fact the money markets of the world, nearly all classes of manufacturing business finding it necessary to retrench rather than expand the development of their trade. The increase in the Neilson business for the year 1913 was approximately 35 per cent. Under the new management which assumed control during the closing weeks of 1912, the business has prospered well.

The company earned a surplus, and after providing for all charges, including management, reserve for bad and doubtful accounts, and the sum of $18,000 for renewals and repairs, it was thought advisable to increase the contingent reserve and to carry forward the balance of profit and loss, before paying any dividend upon the common stock.

Regina has a surplus of assets over liabilities of $10,195,275.88 according to the financial statement for 1913. The total assets shown in the balance sheet amount to $20,755,439.01, and the liabilities to $10,560,163.13.

The doors of J. C. Dale and Company's private bank, of Madoc Village near Belleville, have been closed. A notice was posted up that depositors would be paid in full in ten days. The bank is one of the few private banks of Ontario that have survived the competition of chartered banks. Although a branch of one of the leading chartered banks was established in the village, Dale's Bank retained its large patronage, and appeared to be doing a good business.