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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

CANADA'S ENORMOUS FIRE WASTE.

Probably the most important work being undertaken at the present time by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has to do with the lessening of fire waste. Doubtless other work carried on by the Association is of a more spectacular nature and likely to arouse a greater interest, but nothing compares in value with the quiet effective work they are doing in educating the public in regard to the enormous fire losses. One of the plans adopted by the Association is to have Mr. Franklin H. Wentworth, of Boston, Secretary of the National Fire Prevention Association of the United States lecture before the Canadian Clubs on the real significance of this waste.

During the past week, Mr. Wentworth addressed a meeting of the Montreal Canadian Club and gave one of the most interesting and illuminatimg talks ever delivered before the local club. Mr. Wentworth presented a wealth of statistical information, all of which went to show that the people of this continent were the most prodigal in the world. The per capita fire loss in Canada and the United States is $3.00, while in Europe the per capital fire loss is but 33c. year. In Canada and the United States, we burn up annually $250,000,000 of CREATED WEALTH. This does not refer to forest fires, but to buildings which have been constructed by the labor of men's hands. In Canada alone, we burn up in the neighborhood of $25,000,000 per year, or over one-fifth of the total value of the new buildings erected in any given year. In 1911, we had in Canada 154 fires involving damage of $10,000 or over, while in the first ten months of the present year, we have had 388 such fires. On this continent, we burn up $500 of created property every minute of the day and night. Each man, woman and child in the country pays each year $3.00 as a fire tax.

Mr. Wentworth pointed out that the drain upon our resources by the fire losses were not only enormous, but for the most part was entirely unnecessary. The great proportion of our losses are due to carelessness and thoughtlessness. To overcome this, Mr. Wentworth advocated an educational campaign as well as fire inspection and more stringent laws regarding fire losses. He pointed out in Europe, that instead of receiving sympathy, a man who has a fire receives a visit from the police and is held responsible