

Arrests For Drunkenness Fewer by More Than Third

DECLINE OF 362 IN YEAR, ACCORDING TO POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Special Mention of the Work of Detective Department—Large Number of Doors Left Open and Secured by Police—Where Those Arrested Hailed From—An Interesting Document.

A decrease of nearly thirty-eight per cent. in the number of persons arrested for drunkenness in 1921, as compared with the number taken on this charge during the previous year, was one of the features of the annual report of the chief of police, presented to the common council this afternoon by Commissioner John Thornton of the public safety department.

Special mention is made of the work of the detective department; of goods valued at \$28,300 lost or stolen during the year, \$23,500 worth of them was recovered by the detectives. The following is a summary of the report: The strength of the force on December 31, 1921, was as follows: One chief, one inspector, one sergeant-detective, two detectives, seven sergeants, one court orderly, one deskman, six traffic policemen, one mounted policeman, thirty-four constables, two ambulance drivers, two patrol drivers and one police matron, making a total of sixty.

During the year one patrolman resigned, one died, two were suspended and six were appointed. The one death in the department was that of Police Constable John T. Merrick, who died on January 2, 1921, after a faithful service of thirty years. Forty-one members of the police department passed successful examinations in the St. John Ambulance Association, and the remainder of the department are at present taking instructions. Decrease in Drunkenness. The total arrests for drunkenness for 1921 were 591. The total arrests for drunkenness in 1920 were 953, showing a decrease for 1921 of 362.

There were 404 persons summoned to court to answer charges for violation of the N. B. Motor Vehicle Law. During the year there were 465 doors of shops and warehouses found open by the police and the owners notified. Police ambulance calls for the year were 1,094, and police patrol calls, 935. Of the 1,028 persons arrested during the year, 591 were for drunkenness, sixty-nine for assault, fifty-nine for breaking and entering, 131 for theft, forty-six for wandering about and not giving a satisfactory account of themselves, twenty-four for trespassing, twenty-one for having liquor in their possession, seventeen for lying and lurking, sixteen for creating a disturbance, fifteen as vagrants, twelve for abusive language, and twelve stowaways. Three were arrested on murder charges, five for highway robbery, five for having opium in their possession, three for doing grievous bodily harm, four for escaping from the boys' industrial home, and two for other crimes, one for attempted suicide, and one for striking a person with a stone and killing him. There was only one arrest on a charge of ringing a false alarm.

By-Law Cases. Six hundred and sixty-nine persons were summoned to court on various infractions of by-laws. Of this number, 541 were on charges of breaking motor vehicle laws, provincial and civic, and 1,189 for owning unlicensed dogs. Monthly Arrest Record. January 85, February 93, March 121, April 124, May 69, June 81, July 69, August 81, September 69, October 73, November 77, December 92. During the year 873 persons were sheltered as protectionists. Street lights reported out total 12,043 hours. Dog summonses issued total 157.

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LARGE VOLUME OF NEW CONSTRUCTION IS CONTEMPLATED

Figures for February Nearly \$5,000,000 More Than for January—Ontario Far in Lead.

Table with 3 columns: Province, No. of Projects, Value. Ontario: 496, \$6,816,000. Quebec: 152, 1,946,700. British Columbia: 165, 1,297,100. Alberta: 43, 491,100. Manitoba: 19, 354,000. Saskatchewan: 5, 55,500. New Brunswick: 4, 87,000. Nova Scotia: 2, 19,000. Total for Dominion: 886, \$10,718,800.

An analysis of the actual nature of the work being done reveals a preponderance of residential building. Public works continue to call for the expenditure of substantial sums. Business construction is holding its own, while industrial building naturally awaits the return of more settled conditions in manufacturing. The detailed figures for February show: Residential building \$4,049,200 or 37.8 p.c. Business building... 2,539,000 or 23.7 p.c. Industrial building... 610,000 or 5.7 p.c. Public works and utilities... 819,500 or 7.8 p.c.

Present Factors. Adverse weather conditions have helped to preclude a larger volume of undertakings in the last month, and the tide of construction may rise appreciably until spring is at hand, but the outlook is bright for expansive tendencies in the coming year. One very helpful factor is that of continued reductions in the cost of building materials, the wholesale price index number of which received 6.1 per cent. during January, which is 51.9 per cent. below the peak price of May 1920. Another helpful development is the appearance of easier conditions in the money market, which have left a very distinct mark on the high interest rates hitherto prevailing on bonds, and which are now finding some reflection in an insipid softening of mortgage loan rates. Indeed there remains but one serious obstacle to the resumption of heavy scale building operations: that is the reluctance of labor to accept an adjustment of wage scales in a slight degree commensurate with the drop in living costs. Be it granted that labor is entitled to retain some portion of the improved standard of living wrested during the war, it is economically impossible for labor to hold out alone and obstinately against the great sweep of deflation. Attempts to do so have thus far resulted in nothing better than an alarming jump in statistics of unemployment, which in the month just ended, has grown, so far as the building trades are concerned, to a degree never known before. What employment agencies have been able to obtain, moreover, has largely gone to the genuinely needy worker who has been willing to run the risk of forfeiting his union status by accepting less than union wages, in order to maintain himself and his family. A clear realization of the wage anomaly on the part of organized labor would be quite the most invaluable aid which building, in the broad revival promised this year, could enjoy. Nor is it impossible that some measure of realization at least will be evinced within the next few months.

PRISONERS NOISY IN FIRE. Beat the Bars and Shout as Iowa Penitentiary Buildings Burn. Fort Madison, Iowa, March 7.—Prisoners of the Iowa state penitentiary here beat upon the bars of their cells and yelled for several hours, when fire caused damage estimated at \$250,000 to several buildings within the prison walls. "There goes your old prison" and "Let us out" were yelled to the guards, who tried to quiet them. The fire started in the paint shop of the penitentiary, and fanned by a west wind, extended rapidly to the east, where it destroyed the joining building, which houses the solitary confinement cells; wrecked the tailor shop, and destroyed two buildings which comprise the main plant of the chair industry. About 2,000 chairs were in the building.

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TO "SCOTCH" ALASKA FISH. Death of North Sea Herring, Due to War, Creates New Industry. Tacoma, March 7.—Mines exploded in the North Sea during the war killed so many fish that two fishing boats have left here to establish a Scotch-cured herring industry in a new quarter, it was announced by a local company. The present output in the North Sea is seventy-five per cent. below normal, it was said. The boats will go to Evans Island, near La Touche, Alaska, and establish plants. In May Scotch herring will be sent there to see that Alaskan herring are properly turned into Scotch herring. The regular monthly meeting of the International Longshoremen's Association, local 273, was held last evening in its rooms in Water street. Owing to the large number of the members who were working on the various steamer in port last night, the attendance was not so large as usual. The vice-president, A. Craig, occupied the chair.



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