

The lessening of the desire to hold grain for a pronounced upward turn is also, it is said, responsible in part.

#### Model Farms in Alberta.

Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture for Alberta, when in Winnipeg recently, explained to an interviewer, plans now maturing for the establishment of model farms for demonstration purposes throughout the Province. Six will be started at various points, a grant of \$125,000 having been obtained from the Provincial Government for this purpose during the last session. Buildings of a suitable type and reasonable cost will be erected, and a system of mixed farming will be adopted, the intention being to use the farms for utility rather than experimental purposes. Growing of pure seed in large quantities true to type will possibly be one of the most important features of the farms, it being thought that this will be a particularly effective way of fighting the weed problem. As not more than 2 or 3 p.c. of the arable land in the Province has been thus far broken, this is an important matter. Short course classes will be held on the farms during the winter, these consisting of lectures and practical demonstrations in stock-judging, dairying, soil cultivation, etc. This winter the Department is arranging for short courses of instruction in several places in the Province, including lectures and practical demonstrations, while in the summer months it is intended to wage a vigorous campaign against weeds, the appropriation for this work having been increased from \$11,000 to \$12,000.

#### Vancouver's Assessment.

The work of compiling Vancouver's assessment roll for 1911 is now on its way to completion. The 1910 assessment roll reached a total of \$106,572,475, an advance of about \$34,000,000 on the assessment roll of 1909. It is anticipated that the new assessment roll will show as large an advance as that of last year and that the total assessment will be in the neighbourhood of \$140,000,000 and probably over that amount. The city is administered on the single tax system, by which the general civic rates are levied entirely upon land values.

#### Alberta's Hail Insurance.

Amendments to the hail insurance legislature of Alberta, which contemplates the curtailment of losses which have been experienced under this ordinance in the past year or two, by curtailing the amount of the indemnity paid and increasing the amount of the premium, have been introduced by Premier Sifton in the provincial legislature. The bill provides for a flat rate premium of 25 cents an acre, with a flat rate of indemnity of \$4 per acre. At present the indemnity is \$4, \$6 and \$8, with premiums at the rate of 20 cents, 30 cents and 40 cents per acre, respectively. A loss of over \$300,000 was incurred under the hail insurance ordinance during the past year.

MR. JOHN JENKINS, who has for many years been connected with the Insurance Company of North America, as chief inspector, has been appointed superintendent for Canada of the Fire Department of the Employers' Liability Insurance Corporation with head office at Montreal.

## The Canadian Fire Record.

(Specially compiled by The Chronicle).

LONDON, ONT.—House of James Iland, North Dorchester, destroyed, December 22.

TILLSONBURG, ONT.—Maher's livery stable burned to ground with nine horses, December 18.

GODERICH, ONT.—Skating rink damaged about \$1,000, December 27, owing to a pot of tar boiling over.

GUELPH, ONT.—Bowles Syndicate stores branch damaged, December 20, owing to overheating of furnace.

ATHENS, ONT.—Church of England rectory destroyed, December 22, loss including a valuable library.

WELLAND, ONT.—Fire in rolling mills of Ontario Iron & Steel Company did slight damage, December 18.

TATE, SASK.—General store of W. J. Kellett, destroyed, December 21. Loss placed at \$6,000 with loss of \$3,500.

BRANTFORD, ONT.—Houses of Silas Hill, 69 Corners, and Harry Withrow, Townsend Village, destroyed, December 21.

COBALT, ONT.—Directors cottage on McKerley-Darragh property gutted and three houses in Polish section, destroyed, December 26.

SYDNEY, N.S.—Building occupied by R. W. Roper, general fruit dealer at Glace Bay, gutted and most of contents lost, December 22.

WARWICK, QUE.—Fire on December 24, following explosion in acetylene gas apparatus, in house of Ovide Baril, caused death of four children, and \$3,000 loss.

MELVILLE, SASK.—A recent fire destroyed Common's Opera Hall, the Dominion Bank and Anderson's store. Loss estimated at about \$35,000, not wholly covered by insurance.

BRADWARDINE, MAN.—Business section of the town destroyed, December 22, including Ortenburg's general store, F. & J. Field's hardware store, Massey-Harris warehouse, Bank of Hamilton, R. Common's general store, and Beaver Lumber Company's office.

MONTREAL.—With regard to the fire in Notre Dame Street West on December 27, we understand that the insurance losses are:—W. R. Brock Co., \$220,000; Orkin Company, \$25,000; Anglo-Canadian Leather Company, \$84,000. A full list of the Companies interested will be published next week.

WAWANESA, SASK.—McKenzie block and contents destroyed, December 17, owing to explosion of lamp in cellar. Insurance on building, Atlas, \$4,000; on stock, Atlas, \$3,000; Manitoba, \$2,500; Norwich Union, \$1,500; Yorkshire, \$1,500; Occidental, \$1,500. Loss total.

BALGONIE, SASK.—Insurance on Balgonie Supply Company's store is as follows:—Building, Guardian, \$2,500; British-American, \$2,500. Stock: Hartford, \$4,000; Calumet, \$4,000; General, \$4,000; North Br. & M., \$4,000. Loss total.

WINNIPEG.—Donald Fraser building destroyed, December 26, together with stock of Macdonald Clothing Company, wholesale furs; McAllister & Watts, wholesale stationers; R. J. Whitla, wholesale dry goods. Loss very heavy but full list of companies interested not yet available.