

The CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

City of Montreal and
United States \$2.25

Canada, Great Britain
and Countries in
Postal Union \$2.00

Published Monthly by

The Canadian Municipal Journal Co., Limited.

Coristine Building, Montreal.

FREDERICK WRIGHT, Editor

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Vol. XVI.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER, 1920.

No. 9

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Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting

The Federal Government's offer of a fire training school at Ottawa and its acceptance by the Dominion Fire Chiefs' Association is another step in the direction of fire prevention and fire fighting. The training, which is a six month's course is given free to any one desirous of taking it up and it is hoped that the municipal councils will help in this splendid work by seeing that every fireman goes to the school. Because of climatic conditions — extreme heat in summer and extreme cold in winter—the buildings in Canada are such that they are much more of an inflammable nature than in countries with more even climates, consequently the fire problem is more serious and requires more skill and knowledge to meet it. While some of our fire brigades have earned splendid reputations there are others that have much to learn, and it is certainly to the interest of municipal Canada that the Ottawa course has been established—a fact that every urban council should not only note but act on.

A very important phase of fire prevention was taken up by at the Fire Chiefs' convention, which was held in St. Thomas, Ont., when it was recommended that a standard fire phone number be inaugurated throughout the Dominion; that is, one number should be decided upon for use in all municipalities, so that no time would be lost in looking up the phone number of the local fire brigade station in the case of fire. Men who should know have come to the conclusion that a universal phone number would save much valuable property and many lives each year, and as the adoption of the suggestion would not cost the municipalities one cent it is hoped that the local

councils will lose no time in taking up the matter.

As a further aid to the prevention of fires it has been suggested that more fire call boxes be erected in different parts of our communities—even to the extent of having a call box to each block. As these boxes can be used by patrolmen to aid them in their duties the additional expense would be a good investment. Be that as it may it is to the interest of every municipality to take the fullest precaution to prevent fires and the recommendations of the fire chiefs should be carefully considered.

LADY MAGISTRATES

In England lady magistrates now number 171, in Scotland 41 and in Wales 21. According to a recent despatch the authorities in Scotland have appointed a number of titled ladies to the position, which would seem to give the impression that in Great Britain the letters, J.P. (Justice of the Peace) after a woman's name is more of a social distinction than any special qualification in the knowledge of the law. Fortunately in Canada the administration of justice is practically in the hands of professional judges, even in petty cases. Our one or two lady magistrates who preside over the juvenile courts have qualified themselves for the position by reason of their large experience in sociology, and no doubt as more women qualify, this branch of the Canadian judicial system will be largely in their hands, but we do not think the time will ever come in Canada for social position to be the open sesame to the magisterial bench, either for males or females.