

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD.

Compiled by The Chronicle.

Fire at Plattsville, Ont.—On the 8th inst. a fire destroyed the barns and other out buildings together with the contents, the property of Roy Hewitt near Plattsville, Ont. Loss about \$10,000 partly insured.

Fire at Colborne.—On the 9th instant a disastrous fire broke out in the Phelps Block, Colborne, Ont. The block was occupied by F. A. Phelps, flour store, the Colborne Creamery Co. and A. G. Willoughby. The loss to the occupants is heavy with partial insurance.

Fire at Maidstone Crossing, near Windsor, Ont.—On the 9th instant, the barns and about two thousand bushels of wheat, the property of Jeremiah Collins, Maidstone Crossing, were destroyed by fire, caused by sparks from a passing locomotive. Loss about \$10,000.

Fire at St. Catharines, Ont.—On the 12th instant a fire (caused by an explosion in an oil feeder) broke out in the Canadian Warren, Axe & Tool Company, St. Catharines, Ont. Insurance as follows:—

Aetna	\$5,000	Sun	5,000
Brit. America	5,000	Firemen's Fund	5,000
Caledonian	5,000	Nova Scotia	5,000
Fidelity Phenix	5,000	North West. National	5,000
German American	5,000	London Mutual	7,500
Home	5,000	Millers & Manufactr.	10,000
Liv. & Lon. & Globe	5,000	Provincial of Eng	7,500
Phoenix of Hartford	5,000	Nat. Ben Franklin	2,500
Queen	5,000	Lloyds of London	7,500
Roch. Underwriters	5,000		
Scottish Union	5,000	Total	\$100,000
		Loss about	\$25,000

Fire at Coleraine, Que.—By the fire which occurred on the 11th instant in the Windsor Asbestos Mines Co., Coleraine, Que., the following companies are interested:—

Employers	\$5,000	Brit. America	5,000
London & Lancashire	5,000	Northern	10,000
Mount Royal	10,000	National of Hartford	10,000
Union of Paris	3,500	North Brit. & Mer.	5,000
Queen	8,500	Occidental	5,000
North America	6,500	Guardian	5,000
Prov. Washington	5,000	Alliance	5,000
British Colonial	5,000	Springfield	2,500
Caledonian	2,500	Niagara	3,500
Phenix of Paris	2,500	Union of Canton	2,900
Liv. & Lon. & Globe	10,000	Brit. Crown	2,000
Globe & Rutgers	5,000	Queensland	2,500
Norwich Union	10,000		
National of Paris	4,000	Total	\$140,000
		Loss about 70 per cent.	

Fire at Montreal.—By the fire which occurred on the 11th instant on the premises of the City Ice Company, 1284 Lafontaine, Montreal, the following companies are interested: Liv. & Lon. & Globe, \$39,006; Northern, \$17,336; Guardian, \$22,753; Springfield, \$17,336; Brit. America, \$10,853; Mt. Royal, \$18,419; National of Paris, \$17,336; Union of Paris, \$17,336; Globe & Rutgers, \$10,335; Continental, \$10,335; Acadia, \$8,668; New York Underwriters, \$8,668; Royal Exchange, \$17,336. Total, \$216,700. Loss about \$18,000.

Fire at Montreal.—By the fire which occurred on the 11th instant on the premises of W. H. Dwyer, hay dealer. Insurance as follows: Aetna, \$500; Brit. Crown, \$500; Brit. Traders, \$500; Home, \$500; Hantford, \$200; Northern, \$500; National of Paris, \$300; Nova Scotia, \$750; Occidental, \$750; Sun, \$500; Union of Canton, \$500. Total, \$5,800. Loss total.

Fire at Montreal.—By the fire which occurred on the 5th instant when some thirty dwellings were destroyed on Brewster Avenue, St. Henry, on the occasion of the fire in the Montreal Biscuit Factory, already reported, the followings companies are interested on dwellings:— London & Lancashire, \$12,300; Springfield, \$1,000; Guardian, \$1,000; Norwich Union, \$1,000; Home, \$750; Royal, \$1,000; Scottish Union, \$10,500; Atlas, \$1,000; Sun, \$500; Commercial Union, \$5,168. Total, \$34,218. Loss total.

CONVICTION UNDER NEW ARSON LAW IN MASSACHUSETTS.

A tightening of the arson net in Massachusetts is indicated, according to information received by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, by the conviction of one Frank Costa at Fairhaven, that State, who was sentenced to a year in prison for instigating some unknown person or persons to set fire to his barn for the purpose of defrauding an insurance company. The case presented an unusual feature, in that a conviction was secured against Costa as the instigator of the crime, although the actual "torch" was not discovered. The evidence was purely circumstantial, as Costa entered a convincing alibi by proving that he had been attending a church festival on the night the fire occurred. The motive, however, was clearly shown. The defendant had built a house and barn before he had secured title to the land upon which they stood, and had been trying to raise money to complete the purchase of the site and the structures. He was in the position of owning buildings on another man's land, and, furthermore, the feeling between Costa and the mortgagee was not of the best.

The evidence showed also that Costa had purchased ten gallons of kerosene on the day before the fire, and, following the destruction of the barn, it was found that the kitchen floor and lower stairs of the dwelling, which did not burn, had been saturated with oil. In addition, on the cellar stairs there was a barrel filled with excelsior and shavings, which was likewise soaked with kerosene. Charles P. Ryan, Assistant District Attorney for Southern Massachusetts, who prosecuted the case, contended, for the Commonwealth, that Costa was in a desperate position; that the only way he could realize on his buildings was to collect the insurance upon them, and that if he did not set the fire himself he knew who did, and that it was set at his request and with his connivance.

The jury on the case was out about an hour and a half, and sentence was imposed by the court immediately after the verdict was rendered. The

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