

SMALL FIRE LOSS DURING TWENTY-ONE YEARS.

Sprinkler System Gives Good Protection—Some Valuable Hints to Factory Owners.

During his twenty-one years in charge of the fire protective system of the company's plant, the total loss at all their factories in Canada has been less than \$500. Such was the remarkable statement made by Mr. James Corbett, Fire Chief of the Massey-Harris Corporation, at the recent convention of the Ontario Fire Chiefs.

We have had proved beyond a doubt, said Mr. Corbett, that a well kept sprinkler system is a great protection, and where a fire gets into a place where it can spread rapidly, a number of opening sprinklers will hold it fairly well. We have kept in mind the fact that water falling from a sprinkler on a pile of loose shavings, and other loose material, will not prevent fire from eating its way down and under the pile, but the sprinkler will keep the top and surface wet, and in that way hold the fire until a heavier supply of water is at hand. In paint tank, benzine, or light oil fires sprinklers will cause trouble by spreading fire over a great surface.

Benzine should be kept outside and away from all buildings, and pumped only as wanted, never allowing it to stand about in buckets, pails, etc.

Oils Should be Kept in Fireproof Vault.

Oils, waste and rags should be kept in a fireproof vault outside the main building, with a self-closing door between. A good supply of dry sand with a shovel is a good thing; he favors a barrel that is easily upset, leaving the sand loose on the floor, and making it so much easier to take up on a shovel. A tub of water with a blanket is a good thing to cover oil fires with. All paint tank covers should be self-closing, either by a fuse link or a chain-pull from the floor below. Never use water on oil fires; keep everything wet all around, but use sand on the fire, unless it is a tank, then the top must be closed.

3-inch stand pipes with 2-inch hose-outlets, 24-inch play pipes and 5/8-inch nozzles should be in all stair towers on each floor. Stairs in any other position outside of a brick tower, are highly dangerous. Good doors should be on all towers.

All rooms in factories should have a stand of pails kept full, at least six pails to a stand, galvanized pails with bottom rim preferred. 2-inch good linen hose in 50 or 75 foot lengths, folded on a swing bracket. Change the end crease at least twice a year, and look out for mildew. Linen hose needs great care especially after being wet, it must be dried thoroughly inside and out; after hanging outside for a day place in a loose condition in a dry kiln for a few hours before replacing on hose stand.

A set of light but strong ladders should be kept on hand, a light two wheel truck is useful for transportation about the plant.

Extinguishers Should be Charged Every Six Months.

He favored chemical extinguishers of the 3 gallon type, as something always ready, easy to handle and not needing much care beyond a new charge at least every six months, taking care that the nozzle is clear. The lead nozzle now used clogged quickly if any soda was left in tube. He found an example of this some weeks ago. Some boys in the office had upset an extinguisher, and when they found what they had done, they turned the extinguisher back to an upright position. As only a little acid had escaped, the stream soon gave out, but when examined afterwards the nozzle was completely choked up and had almost to be bored out.

In addition, an inspection by the district chief of city or town fire department should be made at least once in three months to locate valves to sprinklers, both inside and out. He wondered why all the sprinkler risks were not under control outside as well as in. In a sprinkler system which is carried down by falling walls, leaving a great number of open ends, the street pressure is greatly reduced, effecting the water supply to the engines, the suction on hydrant streams.

More than one person should be acquainted with the location of valves and what department they control. Slow burning construction is coming into so general a use at the present time that the danger of a break in piping is diminished considerably.

The Fire Underwriters' Association has had an inspector in Temiskaming for the last two months.

RECENT FIRES.

Monetary Times' Weekly Register of Canadian Fire Losses and Insurance.

The following particulars are gathered from first Press reports of conflagrations. Upon these are instituted further inquiries which appear under heading "Additional Information."

The following fires include those to October 31st:

Tweed, Ont.—Dwelling owned by Mr. Joseph Murphy badly damaged; loss unknown.

Chatham, Ont.—Shed at rear of Mr. Morley's tailoring establishment damaged; loss small.

Forrest, Man.—Dwelling of late Mr. Joseph H. Rogers destroyed. Loss and origin unknown.

Belleville, Ont.—Barn owned by Mrs. Salisbury destroyed. Cause unknown, estimated loss \$3,000.

Belleville, Ont.—House occupied by Mr. E. Moore destroyed. Loss about \$400; insurance \$200.

Fesserton, Ont.—Stave mill owned by Mr. W. W. Cunter totally destroyed. Cause and loss unknown.

North Buxton, Ont.—Residence of Mr. Henry Enos destroyed. Cause, incendiarism; loss unknown.

Selkirk, Ont.—Barns and contents owned by Mr. Fred Smelsie destroyed. Incendiarism; loss unknown.

North Sydney, C.B.—Building owned by Messrs. Voight Bros., Commercial Street, damaged; loss unknown.

Belleville, Ont.—Residence of Mr. John Dalton, Church Street, damaged; loss about \$300; insurance small.

London, Ont.—Shed at rear of Rev. Canon J. W. P. Smith, 784 Richmond Street, destroyed. Loss small.

Chatham, Ont.—Barge Lycoming of Tonawanda owned by Mr. J. C. O'Connor badly damaged; loss unknown.

Sparta, Ont.—Barn on farm of Mr. S. Moutchin destroyed. Cause lightning; loss \$1,000; insurance \$100.

Windsor, Ont.—Barns and stables owned by Mrs. Wm. Kane destroyed. Cause unknown; loss estimated at \$2,000.

Moncton, N.B.—The grocery store of Mr. S. C. Carpenter on St. George Street damaged. Loss estimated at \$2,000.

Montreal, Que.—Sash and door factory of Messrs. Larose & Larose, 2607 St. Hubert Street damaged; loss unknown.

Burrill's Rapids, Ont.—Adams House, occupied by Mr. William Young, destroyed. Cause, incendiarism; loss unknown.

Halifax, N.S.—Woodworking factory owned by Mr. H. E. Macarthur destroyed. Loss estimated at \$5,000; no insurance.

Newcastle, Ont.—Barns belonging to Royal Hotel totally destroyed. Valuable corn and three pigs burned; loss unknown.

Stellarton, N.S.—Wood factory owned by Mr. H. S. McArthur totally destroyed. Loss estimated at \$10,000; no insurance.

Dauphin, Man.—Dwelling house of Mr. Merritt Spillitt, three miles north-west of town, destroyed. Loss unknown; insurance \$300.

Dauphin, Man.—William Allen's farm, six miles south-east of Dauphin, destroyed. Granary owned by Mr. Craven, Blackburn, destroyed.

Melbourne, Que.—Residence of Mr. E. Andrews destroyed. Cause supposed to have originated around kitchen stove; loss unknown.

Seaforth, Ont.—The Kidd block occupied by The Greig Clothing Company, and Messrs. J. F. Robinson & Company damaged. Loss unknown.

Montreal, Que.—New apartment house on Bishop Street totally destroyed. Cause, incendiarism; loss estimated at \$50,000, with \$20,000 insurance.

Ottawa, Ont.—Mr. L. Lafontaine's residence at 503 Cumberland Street damaged. Loss small; cause, lighted candle set fire to window curtains.

Arden, Man.—A number of destructive prairie fires have been raging in the district near the Riding Mountains. A large amount of hay has been burned.

London, Ont.—Frame house occupied by Mrs. B. Blackstock, corner of Richmond Street and Central Avenue, damaged. Loss \$200; supposed incendiarism.

North Battleford, Sask.—Hardware store owned by Messrs. Sprague & Company damaged. Loss, caused mostly by water, estimated at \$2,000; origin unknown.

Nanaimo, B.C.—Three salteries owned by Wiwa, Ksachiga, and Kashia, Japanese engaged in fisheries, totally destroyed. Loss \$15,000; supposed incendiarism.

Winnipeg, Man.—Stable and contents, including two horses belonging to Mr. F. V. Gordon, 1240 Portage Avenue, totally destroyed. Loss estimated at \$1,200; insurance \$500.