and British Columbia and Central Canada Railways, both freight and passenger, has been made through the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada. The railways are asking for a freight rate that runs from 36 cents per hundred pounds for a five-mile haul to 64 cents for a 460-mile haul, and to make the passenger fare six cents a mile, or ten cents for a return trip. This means that north-bound passengers will have to pay $10 for a return journey of 100 miles, as compared with $5 for a similar journey over any other railway, or compared with a little less than $7 on the E., D and B.C. under present rates.

In making the application the companies stated that the new tariffs are based on a 50 per cent. increase over existing standard tariffs, and that the increased revenue is absolutely necessary if the railways are to be operated. Financial statements submitted show a total corporate loss at the end of 1919 for the E., D. and B.C. of $1,201,093, and $263,956 for the Central Canada Railway Co. T. F. Phippen, K.C., of Montreal, counsel, and J. D. McArthur, president of the lines, represented the railways.

Some interesting figures were submitted at this hearing by Mr. Phippen. Total Dominion grants were $384,000 for the Grande Prairie branch, of which $292,000 had been paid and some $91,000 was still to come. Recently an additional $45,000 had been paid, he added. In addition, there had been a grant of $175,000 for the bridge at Peace River. The province of Alberta also had voted $175,000 for a traffic deck on this bridge, of which $110,000 had been paid. The following bond issues had been made, and had yielded the following sums:—

An issue of $7,000,000 at 4 per cent., made early in 1912 and sold in July, 1912, yielding $6,405,854. The province of Alberta concurred in this sale, it was stated.

A bond issue of $2,400,000 worth of 4½ per cent. bonds was made on December 17th, 1916, and sold the same day. This was for the Grande Prairie branch. The price was 76.42, and the issue yielded $1,849,364, of which $1,794,000 had been paid to the company, $58,769 remaining in the hands of the provincial treasurer. The road, he added, had been guaranteed for $20,000 a mile.

A third bond issue, this time for the Central Canada Railway, was made on May 1st, 1915. This was for $2,000,000 at 5 per cent. The sale price was 93, the province making the deal. Receipts from the sale yielded $1,867,570, of which $37,000 still remained in the provincial treasury.

The board, in reserving its decision, asked Mr. Phippen to have a statement prepared showing how the interest charges on the bond issues had been paid year by year since 1913, and to have this forwarded to the board in a few days.

RECENT FIRES

Village of Hafford, Sask., Suffers $125,000 Loss—C.P.R. Sheds and Cars in Joliette Destroyed with Loss of $100,000

Cayuga, Ont.—June 28—Bakeshop belonging to M. H. Yarrett destroyed. Loss, $1,200, covered by insurance.

Chatham, N.B.—The report in *The Monetary Times* of June 18th was an error. There was no fire in Chatham, N.B., on June 9th.

Clifton, Ont.—June 13—Two farmhouses and a barn, owned by Hamilton and Wilson, destroyed. Insurance is small.

Cornwall, Ont.—June 22—Barn containing hides and wool, valued at $8,500, owned by Mr. Bottler at Alexander, destroyed. Insurance, $1,500.

Fernie, B.C.—June 23—Residences belonging to Perry Brothers destroyed. Estimated loss, $2,000.

Guelph, Ont.—June 25—Brass foundry, owned by Smith and Baulk, was damaged. Estimated loss, $1,500, with no insurance.

Hafford, Sask.—June 23—Hafford Hotel, poolroom, general store and butcher shop destroyed. Estimated loss, $125,000. Insurance of $8,000 on the hotel.

Hamilton, Ont.—June 17—Truck owned by the Toronto Cartage Co. destroyed. Caused by a leak in the gasoline tank.

Joliette, Que.—June 28—C.P.R. sheds and cars destroyed. Estimated loss, $100,000.

Kingston, Ont.—June 23—Arden Sawmill, owned by Albert Marsh, destroyed.

Limoilou, Que.—June 19—Lumber mill belonging to Jos. LaFrancois Lumber Co., Ltd., and home of Leon Parent destroyed.

Lindsay, Ont.—June 18—Sawmill belonging to Thos. Brisbane destroyed. Fire started by a spark from the firebox.

Macleod, Alta.—June 22—Power-house destroyed. Loss partly covered by insurance.

McAdam, N.B.—June 19—Two dwellings and a restaurant, owned by Allan Budd, damaged. Estimated loss, $3,500.

Moncton, N.B.—June 26—House and barn, owned by P. L. Davis, destroyed. Loss, $50,000.

New Westminster, B.C.—June 20—Lumber Products Co. destroyed. The fire is thought to have started in the boiler-house.

Peterboro, Ont.—June 17—Peterboro Canoe Co., Ltd., damaged. Loss, $6,500. Insurance amounts to $116,500.

Prince Albert, Sask.—June 15—Home of Samuel Soles damaged. Fire caused by coal oil stove. One fatality.

Quebec, Que.—June 18—Francois lumber yards destroyed. Estimated loss, $100,000, partly covered by insurance.

Riverport, N.S.—June 19—Business section of this town destroyed by fire. Loss, $300,000.

Sarnia, Ont.—June 15—Sarnia General Hospital damaged. Fire caused by lightning. Residence owned by William Farr damaged. Fire caused by lightning. Estimated loss, $3,000.

Stratford, Ont.—June 23—Men's furnishing store, owned by Wally Hern, damaged. Fire was caused by a hot iron.

Toronto, Ont.—June 28—Shop belonging to W. Bruno damaged. Loss, $1,400. Building owned by W. J. Walker damaged. Loss, $1,500.

Streetsville, Ont.—June 22—Hardware store belonging to Robt. Greig destroyed.

Springhill, N.S.—June 21—Business block, owned by Mrs. Sprague, destroyed. Estimated loss to the buildings, $4,000.

Vancouver, B.C.—June 20—Storage warehouse of the Wallace Shipyards and warehouses of the Brackman-Ker Milling Co. were destroyed. Estimated loss, $10,000.

Winnipeg, Man.—June 15—Warehouses of the Carnefac Stock Food Co., R. A. List Machinery Co. and the building belonging to the D. E. Adams Coal Co. were destroyed. Total loss, $20,000.

Woodstock, Ont.—June 25—Drysdale factory, now occupied by Fisher and Hammond as a woollen mill, damaged. Estimated loss, $5,000. Insurance, $2,500.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING FIRES

St. Quentin, N.B.—The total loss in the fire on May 30th is estimated at $500,000. Property in the town was insured to the amount of $151,050 in St. John offices and for an additional amount in Quebec city offices. The insurance in St. John agencies is distributed as follows: Palatine, $11,000; Canadian Accident Insurance Co. (fire), $6,500; Hartford, $15,000; London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., $7,500; North British and Mercantile Insurance Co., $1,000; Western, $2,500; Newark, $1,000; Commercial Union, $24,000; St. Lawrence, $4,400; Queen, $8,000; British Crown, $12,000; British Empire, $10,000; Eagle, $9,000; Lochart and Ritchie, $30,000; Yorkshire, $4,150; Hudson Bay, $1,000; Royal, $4,000.

Toronto, Ont.—Total fire losses in Toronto for the month of May are estimated at $128,439. The loss of contents of buildings included in this amount is placed at $105,010.

Walkerton, Ont.—May 23—Stable belonging to R. Truax, Son and Co. destroyed. The fire was caused from exposure. Total loss, $7,192, with insurance of $49,000.