

NORTHERN ONTARIO FIRE LOSSES.

Reports to the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office from Northern Ontario are now closed, and after a very thorough and complete survey of the whole territory, the following figures are given out as the official record of the loss to created property by the forest fires at the end of July:—

In all, 849 people have suffered loss, some of them, of course, having more than one property involved, but no effort has been made to ascertain the total number of buildings destroyed.

The aggregate loss sustained reaches a total of \$2,134,349.00. The insurance recovered or claimed upon licensed and unlicensed companies is \$1,045,585, and the loss sustained by the people in excess of insurance is \$1,088,764. In other words, about fifty per cent. of the actual loss on property is covered by insurance.

In this statement it must be understood no provision is made for loss on standing timber but it does include pulpwood cut, stacked, and ready for delivery.

Of the claims upon insurance companies, \$654,922 is borne by the regular licensed companies, and the difference, amounting to \$390,663, is borne by unlicensed insurance companies. Of the latter, it is safe to say at this date practically all has been paid, or will very shortly be paid, with the exception of \$28,200. This amount represents claims upon a number of small unlicensed companies, the payment of which is not yet due. All, however, is due, and should be paid before the end of this month, and the extent of the default, if any, in payment by the unlicensed companies will then be known.

At Cochrane, the loss was spread over 203 people, whose total loss is about \$960,000, with \$525,000 of insurance.

At Matheson, the loss was sustained by 51 people for an amount of \$126,000. The total insurance here was only \$12,600.

At Iroquois Falls, which includes the loss of the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, and their tenants, the loss was distributed among 31 people, with a valuation of \$316,000, and an insurance of \$289,000.

Pulpwood, not including the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, cut and ready for delivery is represented by a total of \$63,000, which carried insurance of \$43,000.

In the fire of August 2nd, which occurred in the New Liskeard District, and which involved the Townships of Harley, Dymond, Harris and Casey (including the Casey Cobalt Silver Mine and the Ceresus Mine) the loss was distributed over 124 people, who suffered to the extent of \$254,000, with insurance of \$135,000.

The settlers constitute by far the greatest number of sufferers, and represent the balance of the amount to the number of 345, with a loss of a little over \$300,000, upon which the total insurance was less than \$12,000.

Having thus obtained as full, complete and accurate a statement as it is possible to get, the Fire Marshal has now under consideration a mass of testimony taken in the country from settlers, prospectors, woodsmen and insurance men as to how a repetition of this disaster can be averted. The testimony is very mixed in its character, very contradictory, and very difficult of assembly in

any concrete form, but the whole subject is being carefully considered and the Fire Marshal's conclusion will in due time be presented to the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines.

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GODFREY C. WHITE, Chief Agent,

Room 105 St. Nicholas Building

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