

APRIL FIRE LOSSES

Total Was Smaller Than Previous Month—Numerous Deaths

The *Monetary Times*' estimate of Canada's fire loss during April amounted to \$1,463,747, compared with March loss of \$1,631,696 and \$1,916,235 for the corresponding period of last year. The following is the estimate for the April losses:

Fires exceeding \$10,000	\$1,159,500
Small fires	113,324
Estimates for unreported fires	190,923
	<u>\$1,463,747</u>

The *Monetary Times*' estimate of the fire loss in each province for the first four months of 1915 is as follows:—

Ontario	\$2,112,180
Quebec	1,253,055
British Columbia	576,834
New Brunswick	361,109
Manitoba	272,951
Saskatchewan	290,990
Nova Scotia	198,621
Alberta	159,441
Prince Edward Island	89,704
	<u>\$5,314,885</u>

The fires reported in April at which the fire loss was estimated at \$10,000 and over were as follow:—

Magrath, Alta., April 1	Business section ..	\$ 10,000
Cudworth, Sask., April 4	Hotel	10,000
Saskatoon, Sask., April 4	School	10,000
Eyebrow, Sask., April 5	Stores	15,000
Comaplix, B.C., April 6	Lumber plant	300,000
Killaloe, Ont., April 6	Store	24,000
Niagara Falls, Ont., April 8	Hotel	13,000
Folding, Ont., April 9	Residence	20,000
Sedgewick, Alta., April 10	Elevator	12,000
Chatham, Ont., April 10	Factory	125,000
Collingwood, Ont., April 11	Woodworking plant ..	50,000
Toronto, Ont., April 11	Office buildings ..	87,500
Windsor, Ont., April 14	Lumber mill	40,000
Moose Jaw, Sask., April 14	Construction sheds ..	10,000
St. Mary's, N.B., April 21	Dwellings, etc.	10,000
Swan Lake, Man., April 21	Business section ..	50,000
Winnipeg, Man., April 21	Exhibition build- ings, etc.	20,000
Toronto, Ont., April 22	Lakeside Home	100,000
St. John, N.B., April 22	Warehouse	20,000
Montreal, Que., April 23	Store	10,000
Toronto, Ont., April 25	Factory	40,000
St. Julien, Que., April 27	Church	100,000

The following exclusive *Monetary Times*' record shows the loss by fire for the month of April during the past seven years:—

1909	\$ 720,650
1910	1,717,237
1911	1,317,900
1912	1,355,055
1913	1,470,622
1914	1,916,235
1915	1,463,747

The following table compiled by *The Monetary Times* shows deaths caused by fire during the last six years:—

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
January	27	27	27	14	26	3
February	15	12	11	21	18	11
March	20	19	24	22	27	23
April	37	20	15	11	22	14
May	15	28	18	33	8	..
June	52	13	6	18	12	..
July	15	110	9	9	8	..
August	11	22	16	20	3	..
September	10	13	6	27	9	..
October	16	17	21	15	9	..

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
November	19	20	22	24	14	..
December	19	17	28	13	19	..
Totals	250	317	203	236	175	51

The fires at which fatalities occurred were:—

Montreal, Que., April 3	Lighting fire with tar paper	1
Niagara Falls, Ont., April 4 ..	Clothing set alight	1
Toronto, Ont., April 6	Clothing set alight	1
Frankford, Ont., April 14	Burning building	2
Leamington, Ont., April 14 ..	Clothing set alight	1
Watrous, Sask., April 14	Burning building	3
Rapid City, Man., April 17 ..	Burning building	2
Saskatoon, Sask., April 19 ..	Bush fire	1
Winnipeg, Man., April 25	Burning building	2

The structures damaged and destroyed included 63 residences, 22 stores, 19 stables and barns, 5 factories, 5 sheds, 3 club houses, 3 lumber mills, 3 banks, 3 hotels, 2 apartment houses, 2 picture theatres, 2 churches, 2 warehouses, 2 schools, 2 garages, 2 newspaper offices, 1 woolen mill, 1 post office, 1 evaporator, 1 boathouse, 1 tannery.

Among the presumed causes 6 were prairie fires, 4 defective wiring, 4 incendiary, 4 lightning, 4 spontaneous, 4 bonfires, 3 children and matches, 2 burning grass, 2 sparks, 2 gas jets, 1 overheated stove, 1 defective stove pipe, 1 engine backfiring, 1 candle, 1 dropped cigarette stub, 1 defective grate, 1 electric iron, 1 overheated boiler, 1 exploded oil stove.

ALBERTA AMENDS LAND TITLES ACT

The Alberta legislature has passed an amendment to the land titles act of that province. The new legislation is a step in the right direction. Sales, in the event of trouble, can be effected with much speedier action than heretofore and long delays will be avoided. The amendment will also tend to reduce considerably the expenses in connection with sales. Altogether, the act will help greatly to restore the confidence of investors in Alberta securities and the provincial government is to be commended for its action.

RAILROAD EARNINGS

The following are the earnings for the first three weeks of April:—

Canadian Pacific Railway			
	1915.	1914.	Decrease.
April 7	\$1,766,000	\$2,237,000	— \$471,000
April 14	1,701,000	2,234,000	— 533,000
April 21	1,623,000	2,100,000	— 477,000

Grand Trunk Railway			
	1915.	1914.	Decrease.
April 7	\$1,008,320	\$1,041,360	— \$33,040
April 14	864,658	1,025,518	— 160,857
April 21	869,772	993,502	— 123,730

Canadian Northern Railway			
	1915.	1914.	Decrease.
April 7	\$ 335,700	\$ 371,000	— \$ 35,300
April 14	342,400	367,400	— 25,000
April 21	321,000	366,200	— 45,200

The Canadian Northern Railway's March return shows the following results:—

	1915.	1914.	Inc. or det.
Gross earnings	\$1,379,000	\$1,533,400	— \$154,400
Expenses	956,000	1,173,000	— 217,000
Net earnings	423,000	360,400	+ 62,600
Mileage in operation ..	4,965	4,670	+ 2,951

The Canadian Pacific Railway's gross earnings for March are \$7,852,898, being a decrease of \$1,594,471 compared with the same period in 1914. The net earnings are \$2,973,014, being a decrease of \$126,224.

The following companies have changed their names:— Snider-Dohan, Limited, with Saskatchewan charter, to Trotter-Dohan, Limited; A. M. Shaver, Limited, with Alberta charter, to Murray Brothers, Calgary, Limited; The International Insurance Company, Limited, with Alberta charter, to The Alberta Life and Accident Insurance Company, Limited.