

FIRE LOSS DURING 1917 SMALLEST IN MANY YEARS

Annual Report of Chief Lewis Submitted to City Council--Record Number of Alarms Given--New Auto Pumper Has Proven its Worth--Three More Men Needed on Staff

At yesterday afternoon's session of the City Council, Chief D. J. Lewis submitted the following report covering the activity of the Fire Department for the year 1917: Brantford, Feb. 11, 1918.

To His Worship, the Mayor and Members of the City Council,

Gentlemen,—I have the honor herewith to submit the 29th annual report of the Fire Department for the year ending December 31, 1917. In presenting this report, I am greatly pleased to state that while the number of alarms has been greater than in any previous year, the total loss has been exceedingly small for the size and area of Brantford. The number of alarms was 107, while the total fire loss for the year on both buildings and contents was \$23,522.27. The total amount of insurance carried on both buildings and contents which was actually risked by fire was \$1,893,298.00.

Summary of Work.

The following is a summary of the work of the department during the year: Number of alarms, 107; box alarms, 25; telephone alarms, 75; still or verbal alarms, 7; loss on buildings, \$18,840.30; loss on contents, \$10,681.97; total loss, \$29,522.27. The total amount of insurance carried on both buildings and contents which was actually risked by fire was \$1,893,298.00.

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Health and Discipline.

I am glad to be able to report that the health and discipline of the department have been good. We have again been fortunately free from any serious accidents. There have been only three changes in the staff of the department during the year. Firemen A. Howarth, S. Buckborough and E. Jones resigned to take positions elsewhere. O. Whitaker, G. Russell and W. Greene were appointed to fill the vacancies. We have on the department at the present time both in physique and intelligence, an able and efficient staff, the majority of whom are trained and experienced in all phases of their work and in knowledge of local buildings, so essential to the effective handling of threatening fires.

The New Auto Pumper.

Since my last annual report there has been added to the department one triple combination hose and auto pumping truck. This piece of apparatus has been a long felt want by the department, and in my judgment will prove an investment for the city, which will yield many returns. Horses are fast becoming a thing of the past in all departments and the difference in the cost of maintenance and efficiency between horse-drawn apparatus and motors

has been proven in favor of motor drawn apparatus so often, that it is useless to go into details in regard to this here. This pumper obviates the necessity of the installation of a booster pump for fire pressure on Terrace Hill at a cost of \$16,000, as well as eliminating a wear-and-tear and coal consumption charge of from \$15 to \$25 at the waterworks pumping station for every alarm turned in. The new apparatus will give much needed extra fire pressure, not only to Terrace Hill, but to all other parts of the city as well. Although only installed for a short time, it has thus far proved fully up to expectations.

The Use of the Canal.

In order to secure the maximum usefulness of the new auto pump as well as to provide for an emergency which might arise, I would recommend that a number of approaches be constructed on the north side of the canal. In case of a conflagration in the central part of the city, these approaches would enable the department to pump water direct from the canal independent of the waterworks, and provide four good fire streams.

Three Extra Men Needed.

When the new combination truck was purchased, it was agreed by the Fire and Light Committee of last year that three additional men should be added to the strength of the department. The operating of the pump requires considerable attention and care, more connections have to be made and the services of a trained man are constantly required when it is put in use. The department has a strength of 21 men, including myself, and the standard for a city the size of Brantford is 27. However, with three additional men, I believe all requirements could be met. Under present conditions, with men off at meal hours, and on their regular days off, there are times when the department is not sufficient for the handling of equipment in cases of emergency. I therefore ask your authority to have three additional men appointed at the earliest date.

The Storage Battery.

During the latter part of last year a storage battery system was installed, replacing the old gravity batteries. This system is working to splendid advantage, and is proving not only more efficient than the old batteries, but is responsible for a saving in the cost of maintenance of at least \$500 every year to the city.

Equipment for Sale.

Owing to the securing of motor apparatus, the department now has one 2-horse hose wagon in good condition, one 2-wheeled hose and one team of horses and one set of double harness with snap collars. I recommend that this equipment be listed and sent out to the smaller municipalities, with a view to its disposal. The department has no further use for the above equipment, which might as well be turned into money at once.

Motor for East End.

Owing to the splendid results obtained from motor apparatus, not only the increased efficiency, but in reduced cost of maintenance, I recommend that a combination hose and chemical truck be secured for the east end station. The horses in this station are becoming old and will have to be replaced very soon. The apparatus in the east end is subject at any time to very long calls involving delays which might be disastrous. In the summer time a long run might put out of business the best team of horses which could be purchased. A new combination auto truck solves these difficulties. It will have to come sooner or later as the only approved and up-to-date method of protection against fire, and I would urge upon your honorable body the importance of purchasing a motor-drawn truck for the east end at the earliest possible moment. This would leave only one team of horses at each station, and considering the life of motor-driven apparatus with reasonable usage, I consider the annual saving from the care and keep of horses, also depreciation, would be more than sufficient recompense

to make the purchase of a motor-truck imperative.

Life Boat Truck
If the present life boat is to be maintained at the central hall, which I recommend as desirable in all respects, other provision will have to be made for the carrying of the boat to the scene of drowning accidents. There is only one team of horses left at the central hall utilized on the ladder truck, and in view of the frequency of long calls in drowning accidents, it is not desirable that the horses should be despatched on this business, as they might be urgently needed within the city in case of fire. The department has never failed in the past to recover the bodies of victims in adjacent waters, and has frequently succeeded in saving life. I therefore recommend the purchase of a special small truck for the boat, which could be made at an outlay of \$750. The truck would prove most efficient to call from any distance up or down the river, or at Mohawk distances which cannot be covered by horse, and would at all times be in charge of an efficient life-saving crew.

For many years I have recommended the installation of a new heating system at the central fire hall. This has been put aside on the ground that a new fire hall in a different location was a near possibility. It is my belief that the war has negated such plans for a period of many years. I understand that the police depot is to be installed with a new heating system, and I recommend that the matter of having a joint system for both central fire hall and police depot be taken up by your respective committees. Our present system of heating at the central station is not only inadequate but expensive. About 35 tons of anthracite coal, standard size, are consumed in a year, and it is not obtainable at the old reasonable contract prices owing to the general fuel situation. A modern system of heating, it is my opinion, would cut in half the cost of coal at the central hall, and the system would, in a few years, pay for itself, as well as providing a reasonable amount of comfort for which the members of the department have a right to demand, and which they are not getting at the present time.

Overhead Wires.

I desire to impress upon your honorable body the ever-increasing necessity of having the multi-utility overhead wires on Colborne and Market Streets removed and placed underground. I fully appreciate the fact that it is a vast time, and the question involves a difficulty in a legal and financial way, but the necessity for removal of wires is ever-recurring and provision must be made ultimately to meet it. The wires are a source of great danger in fire protection, and constitute with the poles to which they are attached, an overhead street nuisance. This is a matter to which I have previously referred in my reports, and I again desire to call your attention thereto.

Ladder Practice.

I desire to recommend the purchase of two 60-foot poles to be placed in the rear of the Central Hall with cross-pieces attached, at intervals thereon, as needed for ladder practice for the men as I deem it inadvisable to use the streets where crowds are attracted and privately owned buildings for this purpose. There is too much danger involved in this work. The expense would be trifling and the poles would serve the purpose for which they are required, for a long time.

Estimates for Year.

Accompanying this report will be found schedules containing detailed information of every fire which has taken place during the year, also estimates giving the requirements for the current year. In my estimate I have asked for \$38,690.38, the Council allotted \$32,490.52. It will be noted that more money was spent than the amount allotted, owing to my estimate being trimmed down too fine. For the present year, having in mind the nature of the times, also the importance of the work for which the estimates are made up, I am asking for \$48,315.40, the total estimate for both stations, which includes the payments on both motor trucks, as well as new equipment recommended.

Fire Prevention.

A very important subject I wish to bring before the attention of your honorable body and citizens in general is the matter of fire prevention. It is a question which I am sorry to say, upon which the public looks too lightly. It is a subject to which attention should be given, and systematically given in the public schools, and instilled into the minds of the pupils from their youth up, to always be careful regarding fire. Millions upon millions are lost an-

Hot Water for Sick Headaches

Tells why everyone should drink hot water with phosphate in it before breakfast.

Headache of any kind, is caused by auto intoxication—which means self-poisoning. After any bowel-potions called toxins, sucked into the blood, through the lymph ducts, excite the heart which pumps the blood so fast that it congests in the smaller arteries and veins of the head producing violent, throbbing pain and distress called headaches. You become nervous, dependent, sick, feverish and miserable. Your meals sour and almost nauseate you. Then you resort to acetamide, aspirin or the bromides which temporarily relieve but do not rid the blood of these irritating poisons.

A glass of hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it, drunk before breakfast for awhile, will not only wash these poisons from your system and cure your headache, but will cleanse, purify and freshen the entire alimentary canal. Ask your pharmacist for a quarter pound of limestone phosphate. It is inexpensive, harmless, and sugar-free. If you aren't feeling your best, if your tongue is coated or you wake up with bad taste, sour breath or have colds, indigestion, biliousness, constipation or sour acid stomach, begin the phosphate hot water cure to rid your system of toxins and poisons.

A number of repairs are needed at both fire halls this year. The Central hall should be painted and papered all through upstairs. The East End station requires painting on the outside, as well as painting and papering on the inside. It is a number of years since any expenditure has been made on the stations in this way, and it has come to the stage where it is absolutely necessary to have this work done.

During the year the members of the department have received a number of checks from various citizens and firms in appreciation of the work done by the department at the different fires. On behalf of the men of the department I desire to express thanks for the good will shown by the donors.

I desire to thank the Mayor and City Council of last year, and especially Dr. Wiley, the chairman of the fire and light committee and the members of that committee for their kindly interest and hearty cooperation in the work of the department. I also wish to thank Chief Fleming and the members of the police force for their vigilance in discovering fires and their assistance generally which no doubt contributed to the small fire loss during the year and the saving of both property and life. My thanks are also due the press for their usual courtesy throughout the year.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
D. J. LEWIS,
Chief Brantford Fire Department.

HEATLESS MONDAY IN N.Y.

New York, Feb. 12.—The entire clock and suit industry was exempted to-day from the operation of the fourth heatless Monday in New York and 90,000 workers were thus permitted to continue work.

Some Sensible Rules.

The following rules, if carried out will go a long way towards preventing fires and an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure:

Keep ashes at all times in a metal receptacle, never in wooden boxes or barrels.

Keep oily rags in metal waste cans, and remove contents each night.

Rubbish of every description should never be allowed to accumulate either in buildings or yards.

Gasoline, naphtha and other volatile liquids should not be kept in buildings.

Gas brackets should be rigid fixtures. Where absolutely necessary to use swinging brackets, all exposed woodwork should be protected by sheet metal, leaving an air space.

Place metal bells over gas jets on low ceilings.

Steam pipes should be kept clear from all wood and other combustible material.

Protect open fire places with sheet iron, better still brick them up.

Electric wires are a hazard when not properly installed. Lamp cords should never be hung on nails or wrapped around any piping. Don't use paper shades. Do not allow employees to tamper with electric installations. If changes are necessary, secure duly qualified electricians to do the work.

Run stove pipes direct to brick chimneys. If necessary to run thro' floors or partitions protect the same by asbestos or metal coverings.

Always protect floors under stoves with brick or cement or sheet metal.

Always be careful as regards the use of matches and never throw

burnt matches in a waste paper basket.

The above rules are only a few simple ones which if observed might be the means of saving many thousands of dollars annually and perhaps loss of life.

Equipment.

The equipment under my charge at the present time is as follows: One triple combination Seagrave hose chemical and auto pumping truck. This pump has a capacity of 800 imperial gallons per minute. One Watrous combination hose and chemical truck (auto), two 2-horse hose wagons, two hose sleighs, one Ford roadster for Chief, two city service Seagrave ladder trucks, one aerial ladder truck in reserve. The ladder on this truck has an invincible nozzle stationary on the end of the ladder, which when raised takes two lines of hose with it, thus answering the water tower. All the above apparatus is fully equipped with tools for work at fires. Hose on hand 6000 feet in good repair. 2000 feet medium, 500 feet poor. Of this amount, 5000 feet is kept loaded on apparatus and ready for use at all times. We have eight horses at the present time, but two of these are to be sold, thus reducing the number to six. The existing system consists of 40 street boxes, with about 20 miles of outside wiring, Northern Electric storage battery system recently installed with a six circuit switchboard, punch register, protector board, motor generator batteries etc., with a 20-inch gong at each station.

Repairs Needed.

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I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
D. J. LEWIS,
Chief Brantford Fire Department.

Try this on your dining or library table top—

Take a little Old English Wax on a soft cloth and go over a small surface at a time. Use the wax sparingly—a thin, light coat gives the best results. After a few minutes, rub to a rich, dull lustre with a clean cloth.

This will give your dining table a finish that will be especially attractive when mats are used. It also forms a hard surface that will protect your table tops from scratches and wear. Get a can of Old English Wax today.



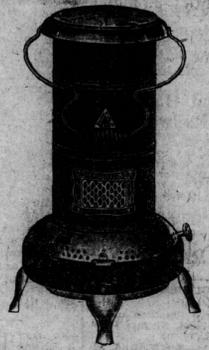
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