

43 fires, all from carelessness. Carelessly neglected stoves, stove pipes and boilers caused 124 fires. Candles and lamps igniting clothing and bedding caused 78 fires. Gas escaping, 28. Gas lights, candles and lamps igniting window curtains and goods in shop windows caused 91, only 2 of which were accidental and 82 were from carelessness. Kerosene lamps upsetting, falling or exploding, 91 accidental and 38 from carelessness. Matches carelessly handled or left in dangerous places caused 98 fires. Sparks from chimneys, steamships and locomotives, 65. Bonfires, 27. Cigars and pipes, 127, all from carelessness. Children playing with matches, 81.

**Telegraph
Wires.**

Telegraph and telephone wires are found to be a nuisance to the fire department, as they often impede their operations and cause infinite trouble and considerable delay in elevating their ladders when time is of the utmost importance.

Water Supply.

On enquiring into the state of the water supply for fire purposes I was informed that there are large districts where the water will not flow for the greater part of the day and that the department frequently labours under great disadvantage in this respect. In no part of the city is the normal pressure of the water good or sufficient for fire purposes, so that engines have always to be called out and used from the beginning of a fire to the end. The best pressure obtainable directly from the mains is said to range from 20 to 25 lbs on the square inch, while the lowest is zero. It will be shown, hereafter, that other cities suffer in the same way, and that in Halifax even with the abundant water supply which we possess, we are steadily and rapidly approaching the same unsatisfactory state of affairs owing to the absence of any control whatever over water pipes and fittings in private premises and establishments.

In most American and nearly all European cities waste of water is regarded in the light of a crime and is punishable as such, while in this highly favored City of Halifax a citizen may with impunity lavishly waste \$1000 worth of water—or more if he has the facilities for doing so—and if, by chance, detected he can escape by the payment of one dollar, which, by the way, can seldom be collected. It is true we have an ordinance forbidding the water to be wasted and empowering the Board of Works to place meters wherever may be thought advisable, but this law is largely inoperative and does not confer the power to charge for the water consumed. While this state of things exists it is useless to complain of the low pressure in certain