

EXPLOSIVES AND INFLAMMABLES

Fire Limits.—There is no particular section of the city in which construction is restricted in the sense of a fire limit, but it is restricted to 1st and 2nd Class, when buildings front on the following named main thoroughfares: Port Dauphine, Buade, Fabrique, St. John up to De Salaberry, St. Louis, Grand Allee up to De Salaberry, Dalhousie, St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Joseph, St. Valier up to Scotts Bridge Road, Bridge, Crown, Henderson, St.

Nicholas, St. Roch, Mountain Hill and the South of St. Andrew Street. It is prohibited to increase the height of 3rd Class buildings now standing on these streets.

Penalties.—Suitable penalties are provided for violation of the law.

Enforcement.—Fair.

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ORGANIZATION.—Supervision.—Ordinances concerning explosives and inflammables are included in the building by-laws.

Permits.—The City Engineer and Building Inspector control the issue of permits.

Inspections.—The Building Inspectors visit all premises for which permits are requested. Officers of the fire department are authorized to inspect and report infractions to the Recorder's Court.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS.—Buildings used for the storage or sale of straw, hay, flax, inflammable liquids or other highly combustible substances, must not be occupied in any part as a dwelling. Automobile warehouses or workshops in which gasoline is kept must not be occupied in their upper stories by lodgings or public halls; chauffeurs' rooms are permitted.

The storage of gasoline or kindred fluids is permitted only in underground tanks as approved by the City Engineer, and must be handled by pumps of an approved model. When automobile tanks are to be filled or emptied it is prohibited to use cans exceeding 5 gallons capacity, or open vessels; lights on cars must be extinguished and no open fire within 50 feet; permits for the storage or sale of gasoline must be renewed yearly.

A permit must be obtained from the City Engineer for the storage of coal oil or petroleum in excess of 5 barrels.

A permit is required for the storage, sale or manufacture of fireworks, or the setting off of same in a public place; they may be set off on a private property, but not within 40 feet of any building.

Woodworking establishments are required to remove refuse every two days. Stoves in such establishments must be encircled in fireproof materials. It is prohibited to place ashes on a wooden floor or in proximity to any woodwork, or in a wooden receptacle.

LOCAL CONDITIONS.—A laboratory for explosives is maintained by the Federal Government. It is situated within the city limits in an open field about 300 yards distant from buildings on one side, the three other sides being clear.

The manufacture of small arm ammunition is conducted in a large government plant and which is located in a built-up section of the city.

Sporting goods stores keep gunpowder in small quantities and fixed ammunition in fairly large quantities. Calcium carbide in sealed containers is kept in the outbuildings of two concerns. Five wholesale or manufacturing drug houses keep alcohol in quantities—usually in steel containers, also quantities of various volatile and combustible liquids, acids and salts. There are four fairly large dry cleaning plants using considerable quantities of gasoline and several using small quantities. Printers and tailors keep small quantities of gasoline, usually in safety cans. Plumbing shops also keep from 1 to 5 gallons of gasoline. Hardware stores generally keep oils in quantities up to 600 gallons; some provided with stone vaults or approved tanks, others with ordinary barrels on the surface without precaution against leakage. Varnish is usually kept in sealed tins.

There are two large oil and gasoline distributing firms with tanks and warehouses. A row of frame buildings is exposed by one of these establishments at a distance of 50 feet, and one is but 125 feet distant from a series of large heavily stocked frame warehouses. Grocers keep from 1 to 5 barrels of kerosene. Of the many garages and auto repair shops, one only is of fire resistive construction; many are of poor frame construction and in built-up districts. Underground storage tanks are general; the majority have pumps and filling pipe inside the building, outside pumps not being permitted by the city authorities. Heating plants are cut off in a few only; many are heated by stoves. Boot and shoe factories and tire vulcanizing shops use rubber cement, which, in some cases, is kept in standard containers; others keep and use it from ordinary tins and in close proximity to open flame. Tanneries keep from 5 to 50 gallons of acids in carboys. There are no film exchanges in the city. Of the 8 moving picture theatres, 5 have approved booths; the condition of the other three is unknown, the management having refused to permit an inspection of same; seven are in brick-joisted buildings and one brick-veneered. Wholesale grocers stock matches in carload lots. Among the hay and straw warehouses several are heated by