

DOMINION FIRE CHIEFS' CONVENTION

Chiefs Should be Familiar with Building Construction—
Dangers from Fires in the House

(Staff Correspondence.)

Calgary, August 23rd, 1919.

THE eleventh annual convention of the Dominion Association of Fire Chiefs, held in Calgary, August 19th to 22nd, was a marked success. A true western welcome was accorded the visiting chiefs who gathered from all parts of Canada. Chief Smart of Calgary, better known as Cappy Smart, was an excellent host and addresses of welcome were given by Mayor Marshall, Manager Richardson of the Exhibition Association, and Wm. Toole, president of the Calgary Board of Trade. In the opening address, Chief Pritchard, the president of the association, from Chatham, said that they were glad to have the opportunity of holding the convention this year in the west, and that the papers they had before them assured a most instructive and educational program. The prospect, in his opinion, was for the best convention of the association that had yet been held.

Letters were read from F. G. Burley, deputy fire commissioner, the president of the International Firemen's Association, and others, wishing the convention every success and regretting their inability to attend. A very interesting paper was read by the secretary, prepared by Mrs. Pritchard, on "Fire Prevention from the Standpoint of the House-wife." In this the various causes of fire in the home were thoroughly gone into and the preventions and precautions necessary in houses. The reading of this paper was adopted, and the thanks of the assembly passed to Mrs. Pritchard. A discussion on the paper followed, and, after having the roll of delegates called, the meeting adjourned until the afternoon.

At the afternoon session the topic set for discussion was of "Fire Prevention Organization and the Power of Suggestion," by A. C. Cameron, chief of the fire department, Oshawa, Ont. His address was given in full in these columns last week.

At the morning session on Wednesday, much time was taken up with a discussion on the paper prepared by Chief Healy, of Denver, Colorado, on "Building Construction, and How It Applies To the Work of the Chiefs and Fire Department." Comment on this was varying, and, in some cases, adverse. It was pointed out that every builder has his own idea of construction, and follows it out, and that, therefore, a superficial knowledge of construction was not of much value. In defence, it was claimed that building construction had its fundamental principles as regards joists, studding, etc., and that a knowledge of these things was of inestimable benefit to fire chiefs in preventing undue waste from entering blazing buildings in the wrong manner, and operating upon floors in the best way to save unnecessary destruction.

At this juncture, Chief Smart came in with Hon. W. H. Cushing, and introduced him as a volunteer of the first brigade which had existed in Calgary. In a short address, he described the early experiences of the Calgary fire brigade, when they had carted water in buckets from the river. There had been few serious fires in the city, he said, which was due entirely to the efficient service given the citizens by the department, under Chief Smart.

A paper prepared on "Experiences of Fire Fighters With the Army Type of Gas Mask" followed, in which it was shown that, after many experiments in serious fires, the conclusions arrived at were that the mask in its overseas form was not always an adequate protection against many gases met with. Whilst proof against the irritating and choking fumes of ordinary fires, it did not protect against ammonia except in very low concentrations. The army type of mask should be used with caution on account of its limitations, not being constructed for high concentration of gas, and should not be used at all in mines after fires and explosions. A demonstration was made after the reading of the paper of the improved gas mask, which has been evolved from the old type of army mask, and contains two canisters, one for ammonia fumes and one for smoke fumes, which is good for

two hours. This mask has been worked out in numerous fires with success, and has been endorsed by chiefs of many large brigades. In the afternoon practical experiments in smoke and gas were successfully undertaken with the mask.

At the Friday morning session the main topic of discussion was the by-laws governing building in cities and towns, and how they apply to fire departments. It was claimed that whilst by-laws of great assistance to fire chiefs and their departments are passed, they are often allowed to slip into abeyance; are amended so as to be of no use, and even in some cases rescinded altogether. It was the general opinion of the meeting, after the matter had been talked over at some length, that the Dominion or provincial governments should pass some legislation, preventing the amendment or annulment of by-laws in this respect which they have passed upon.

Numerous technical subjects were discussed, and the delegates all were of the opinion that much benefit had been derived from the meetings.

FIDELITY TRUST TO HAVE BRANCH IN EDMONTON

The Fidelity Trust Co., of Winnipeg, has started the construction of a new building at Jasper Ave. and 105th St., Edmonton, Alta. According to plans, the building has a frontage of 107 ft. on Jasper Ave., with a depth of 150 ft. It will be one story high and will contain five stores and a garage, all facing on Jasper Ave. It will be of brick and steel construction, and will cost slightly over \$46,000 on the contract price.

LARGE INCREASE IN SASKATCHEWAN REVENUE

According to statistics prepared by the provincial secretary's department of Saskatchewan, the revenue of the province for the fiscal year ended April 30 last, exceeded that of the previous year by nearly \$200,000, according to statistics compiled by the department. The total revenue for the year was a little less than \$1,250,000, as compared with \$1,062,000 for the previous year. The departmental income comprises company and corporation taxes, motor licenses and railway taxes, also theatre, auctioneer, peddler and marriage licenses.

At the last session of the provincial legislature an increased scale of taxation on corporations was provided and while taxes and licenses are applied to the calendar year, the revenue for the fiscal year was partly benefited as the result of the increased scale. Another reason for the increase in business, a considerable number of new incorporations having been registered since the first of the year.

During the calendar year to July 31, no less than 147 new companies have been incorporated and 45 extra provincial companies have been registered. During the same period 109 rural telephone companies have been incorporated.

RAILROAD EARNINGS

The following are the earnings of Canada's transcontinental railways for the first three weeks in August:—

Canadian Pacific Railway.				
	1919.	1918.	Inc. or dec.	
August 7	\$3,442,000	\$2,882,000	+	\$ 560,000
August 14	3,298,000	2,759,000	+	539,000
August 21	3,374,000	2,942,000	+	432,000
Grand Trunk Railway.				
August 7	\$1,392,477	\$1,236,343	+	\$ 156,134
August 14	1,461,258	1,285,064	+	176,194
August 21	1,532,996	1,341,827	+	191,169
Canadian National Railway.				
August 7	\$1,811,263	\$1,546,287	+	\$ 264,976
August 14	1,891,104	1,583,071	+	308,033
August 21	1,797,669	1,648,924	+	148,745