

MONTREAL'S FIRE WASTE

Fewer Calls—Lamps and Coal Oil Poured on Fires
Add to Number of Deaths—Largest Fires

Eleven persons were burned or died as a result of fires during the past year, according to statistics compiled by the Montreal fire department for the year ending December 31st, 1912. In 1911 thirteen persons lost their lives by fire.

The total number of alarms turned in during the past year was 2,665, as against 2,717 in the previous year, or a decrease of 52. There were 195 false alarms, 26 false automatic alarms and 706 useless alarms. There were 24 second alarms and 4 third alarms.

January was the busiest month in the matter of the number of alarms turned in, the total being 355. The other totals are as follows: February, 257; March, 185; April, 204; May, 208; June, 208; July, 276; August, 212; September, 151; October, 194; November, 189; December, 233.

The most disastrous fires of the year were those of the Richelieu Hotel, on Jacques Cartier Square, which was burned on January 23rd. This was a three alarm fire.

Five Second Alarm Fires.

On January 29th the factory of Sheaffer Brown was destroyed after the apparatus called on three alarms had fought for hours. There were five second alarm fires in the same month, and on January 6th occurred the first death, when six-year-old Marie Lousie Gingras was burned at her home, 406 Timothee Street, as a result of her three-year-old brother knocking over an oil lamp, which set fire to the infant's crib.

The fire which exacted the heaviest toll of lives was that which on February 13th destroyed the premises of the Abbey-Effervescent Salt Company, at the corner of St. Antoine and Craig Streets, when Major John Rogers, manager of the concern, was burned to death, and G. Woodburn, an employee, died later of injuries received. The girls employed in the place were rescued by the firemen by way of the windows.

On the 24th of the same month Miss Elizabeth Moore lost her life in a fire which broke out at 1057 Cadieux Street.

There were four second alarms in April, and in the blaze which occurred on April 14th Miss Annie Gingras, a teacher, was cut off from the stairway by the flames in her boarding house, 13 Metcalfe Street, and burned to death. On May 5th Toussaint Veillard also died of burns sustained in a fire a few days previously.

Fifty Houses Destroyed.

In June there were four second alarms, one of them when aid was sent to Ste. Scholastique on the 26th, and two days later to Pointe-aux-Trembles, when some fifty houses were burned. During the course of the later fire Miss Mathieu, an invalid, who had to be taken from one of the buildings in close proximity to the burning area, died from shock.

On August 1st three alarms were sent in for a fire at the Montreal Abattoirs, which resulted in considerable damage. A special call also came from St. Paul l'Ermite, where six houses were destroyed. There were two deaths in this month.

Mrs. Chamberlain, while pouring coal oil on the fire in the stove, was fatally burned on the 24th, and the following day Mrs. E. McGarr was burned to death in her home, 76 Plessis Street. In connection with this case, upon allegations made by the son of the deceased at the inquest, the woman's husband was arrested on the charge of having thrown a lighted lamp at his wife in the course of a quarrel, but at the preliminary court hearing, McGarr was honorably acquitted.

On 11th October, Agnes Murren died of burns sustained three days before, by the explosion of acids when she was dipping light mantles. Three of her sisters were slightly burned at the same time.

On December 11th, Rebecca Marslin, 4 years of age, was fatally burned in a fire which broke out in her home, 49 Jurors Street. On the 19th of the same month, Fireman A. Laroque, of No. 6 station, lost one eye while operating a hand extinguisher during a fire at 403 Cadieux Street.

Heavy Loss In November.

The largest fire in November was that which broke out on the evening of the 3rd, and destroyed the premises of the Consumers Cordage Company at 283 St. Patrick Street, lack of water due to the breakdown of the pump at the city water-spread in Point St. Charles being responsible for the rapid spread of the flames and the consequent heavy damage.

During the year, according to the figures, which for December, have not been completed, 1,353 streams were laid, 504,810 feet of hose used, 2,460 salvage covers spread, 67,489 feet of ladder raised, 1,661 babcocks utilized, 1,071 buckets were called into use, the chemical engine was occupied seven times and the steamers called into commission 118 times.

The men of the salvage corps, under Captain Taylor, did good work during the year and saved thousands of dollars worth of property from damage by water. The wagon of No. 4 station, Chaboillez square, in charge of Lieutenant Boucher,

responded to 487 alarms. The men used 145 hand extinguishers, four streams and spread 1,855 covers. The wagon of No. 5 station, Berthelet Street, of which Lieutenant Deschamps has charge, responded to 489 alarms. The men used 53 hand extinguishers and spread 1,228 covers. The wagon of No. 7 station, corner of Beaudry and Notre Dame Streets, under Lieutenant Jodoin, responded to 431 alarms. The men used 21 hand extinguishers and spread 786 covers. The men of ten ladder trucks in stations on the outskirts of the city spread 331 covers during the year.

BANK BRANCHES OPENED AND CLOSED DURING DECEMBER

Thirty-two branches of Canadian chartered banks were opened during December and twelve closed. The following table gives details of the branches opened and closed during previous months this year:—

Month.	Opened.	Closed.
January	20	5
February	16	3
March	38	6
April	24	8
May	50	6
June	21	7
July	26	6
August	17	15
September	25	5
October	39	6
November	30	12

Houston's Bank Directory gives the following particulars for December:—

Branches Opened and Closed, December, 1912.

Sussex, N.B.	Royal Bank of Canada.
Assiniboia, Sask.	Union Bank of Canada.
Loverna, Sask.	Union Bank of Canada.
Morse, Sask.	Union Bank of Canada.
Alma, Ont.	Royal Bank of Canada.
L'Epiphanie, Que.	Royal Bank of Canada.
Belize, British Honduras	Royal Bank of Canada.
Lambeth, Ont.	Royal Bank of Canada.
Nuevitas, Cuba	Royal Bank of Canada.
Assiniboia, Sask.	Weyburn Security Bank.
New Port, B.C.	Union Bank of Canada.
Port Arthur, Ont.	The Dominion Bank.
Laurentides, Que.	Banque Provinciale du Canada.
Port McNicoll, Ont.	Canadian Bank of Commerce.
Fort St. Victoria, B.C.	Royal Bank of Canada.
St. Malachie, Que.	Banque Provinciale du Canada.
Fort George, B.C.	Royal Bank of Canada.
Douglas St., Victoria, B.C.	Royal Bank of Canada.
Kelfield, Sask.	Union Bank of Canada.
Stewart, B.C.	Union Bank of Canada.
Newport, Que.	La Banque Nationale.
Dalhousie, N.B.	Bank of Nova Scotia.
Aylmer, Que.	Union Bank of Canada.
Papineauville, Que.	Union Bank of Canada.
St. Patrick's Ward, Guelph, Ont.	Union Bank of Canada.
Gerrard & Greenwood, Toronto, Ont.	Union Bank of Canada.
Prince Arthur & Park, Montreal, Que.	Union Bank of Canada.
Sparta, Ont.	Imperial Bank of Canada.
Marengo, Sask.	Northern Crown Bank.
Tate, Sask.	Northern Crown Bank.
Victoria, B.C., Oak Bay Junct.	Northern Crown Bank.
Aylesbury, Sask.	Royal Bank of Canada.

Branches Closed.

Leeville, Sask.	Union Bank of Canada.
Sparta, Ont.	Sterling Bank of Canada.
Leeville, Sask.	Weyburn Security Bank.
Passburg, Alta.	Union Bank of Canada.
Three Rivers, Que.	Banque Internationale du Canada.
Pont Rouge, Que.	La Banque Nationale.
Cobalt, Ont.	Union Bank of Canada.
Aylmer, Que.	Northern Crown Bank.
Papineauville, Que.	Northern Crown Bank.
Stewart, B.C.	Canadian Bank of Commerce.
367 Main Street, Winnipeg, Man.	Canadian Bank of Commerce.
Upton, Que.	Canadian Bank of Commerce.