

RECENT FIRES

Toronto, Rigaud, Que., and Bassano, Alta., Suffered Heaviest Losses this Week—Number of Fires Not so Great

Bassano, Alta.—February 10—Electric light plant of the United Electric and Engine Co., Ltd., was destroyed. Cause, explosion. Estimated loss, \$25,000.

Charlottetown, P.E.I.—February 15—Garage belonging to Arthur Campbell, was damaged. Estimated loss, \$3,000.

Edmonton, Alta.—February 8—The Great West Garment Building, corner of 105th Ave. and 97th St., was destroyed. Part of the building was used as a motor trades' school. Cause unknown.

Hull, Que.—February 17—Match factory of the E. B. Eddy Co. was damaged. Cause, presumed to have been due to a defect in the electric wiring.

Longueuil, Que.—February 10—Home of Mrs. J. R. Bournet, 6 Labonte St., was badly damaged. Estimated loss, \$2,500, covered by insurance.

Montreal, Que.—February 10—Buildings occupied by Brocton Shoe Co., 441 St. Lawrence Boulevard; Sam Harrison, dry goods, 441a St. Lawrence Boulevard; and the printing plant of the New York Press, 1 Demontigny St., were damaged. Cause, originated in the cellar of the printing plant.

February 17—Three-story building, occupied by West End Laundry, Cleaning and Pressing Co., 1488 Queen St. W., was damaged. Estimated loss, \$3,000.

Port Colbourne, Ont.—February 12—Corona Theatre was destroyed. Cause unknown. Estimated loss, \$10,000, partly covered by insurance.

Port Lambton, Ont.—February 12—Residence of James McMillan was destroyed. One death.

Rigaud, Que.—February 12—Building of the Burnett and Crampton Foundries was destroyed. Cause unknown. Estimated loss, \$25,000.

Toronto, Ont.—February 14—Building situated at 10 Front St. East, was damaged. Cause unknown. Estimated loss, \$75,000.

February 16—Building of the Canadian Transfer Co. with contents, was damaged. Cause, by the engine of an auto truck firing while the gasoline tank was being filled. Estimated loss, \$1,500. Premises of T. M. Brown Co., phonograph manufacturers, 485 King St. W., was damaged. Cause unknown. Estimated loss, \$5,000, covered by insurance.

Vanguard, Sask.—February 11—Vanguard bakery, Keefner garage, Murray Hall's house, G. S. Smail's insurance and real estate office, moving picture building and the old Union Bank building, were destroyed. Cause unknown.

Woodstock, N.B.—February 13—Hayden-Gibson theatre block in the main street, including Gibson Tailoring Co., Ltd., Steven Bros., druggists, T. Bradley, fruiterer, and Dents' Bakery, was destroyed. Estimated loss, \$100,000, covered by insurance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING FIRES

Belleville, Ont.—According to the report of Fire Chief W. J. Brown, the total fire loss in this city for the past year was only \$10,014. The value of property endangered was \$117,860. The figures were somewhat lower this year than last.

Brandon, Man.—The fire loss for Brandon during the year 1919 was only \$9,346, according to a report of the fire department submitted to the city council. This is about \$4,000 less than the amount that the fire commissioner gave as his figures of the loss by fires in Brandon last year. Explaining this, Chief Melhuish said that the figures given by his department were as close as they could be obtained from information given in this city and that the losses given by the fire commissioner may possibly include some fires in the

district surrounding Brandon. The total loss for the year by fire and water, as estimated amounts to \$9,346. The chief states that this may not compare with the fire commissioner's report, but follows the procedure pursued for a number of years by submitting approximate estimates of loss. The largest loss in any one fire was that of the C.N.R. storehouse, entailing a loss of \$2,500.

Fredericton, N.B.—The fire chief's annual report is as follows: There were thirty-eight actual fires, some of them very serious, entailing very heavy losses. The most serious fires were those in the VanBuskirk residence, Kirk Apartments and Gem Theatre, the losses on which, with their contents, amounted to \$39,963. Insurance losses for the year were: On buildings, \$38,282.50; on contents, \$16,197.30. Total, \$54,479.80. Total insurance on buildings where fires have occurred: On buildings, \$94,050; on contents, \$31,000. Average insurance loss for the past thirty-six years, \$8,783.

Hamilton, Ont.—January 26—The cement oil tank and portion of forge room belonging to Canadian Shovel and Tool Co. were damaged. Cause, watchman's lantern placed too close to oil tank. Estimated loss, \$3,000. Insurance carried in the following companies: Guardian, \$72,000; Continental, \$55,000; Canadian, \$10,000; Law Union and Rock, \$15,000; Queen, \$15,000; Atlas, \$15,000; London Guarantee and Accident, \$8,000. Total, \$190,000.

London, Ont.—February 7—Egerton St. Baptist Church was destroyed. Estimated loss, \$30,000. Insurance carried, \$20,000.

Port Dover, Ont.—January 18—Residence of L. G. Morgan was damaged. Cause unknown. Estimated loss, \$750. Insurance carried in the Monarch Fire.

Saskatchewan.—Fire was responsible for property loss totalling \$1,240,000 and 73 human lives, in addition to 24 people being severely burned in Saskatchewan during the first six months of 1919, according to statistics compiled by A. E. Fisher, fire commissioner for Saskatchewan. The property loss is about the average, said Mr. Fisher. A feature of the fire losses for the period is the large proportion of big conflagrations. There were no less than 15 grain elevators destroyed, involving a loss of \$118,000 and extensive fires occurred at the following points: Brock, \$43,000; Delisle, \$35,000; Southey, \$34,000; Herbert, \$35,000; Swift Current, \$56,000; Fiske, \$80,000; Sceptre, \$39,000; and the Quaker Oats Co.'s plant, Saskatoon, \$425,000. The fire losses were divided among the different classes of municipalities as follows: Cities, \$571,512; towns, \$181,826; villages, \$362,500; rural, \$124,027; total, \$1,239,865.

St. Gervais, Que.—February 4—Presbytery and residence were damaged. Cause, defective chimney. Estimated loss, \$750. Insurance carried in the Strathcona Fire Co., and the Mutual des Fabriques, on residence \$1,500, on presbytery, \$3,000; total, \$4,500.

Toronto, Ont.—Fire losses for the city during January amounted to \$421,989, \$205,375 of which was for buildings and \$216,890 on contents. This includes the Westminster church fire. Total insurance carried amounted to \$223,600. The losses in January, 1919, were only \$32,968. During the month the firemen responded to 243 calls, three of which were outside the city. Children playing with matches caused five fires, hot ashes 8, cigars and cigarettes 3, gas and curtains 4, sparks 4, gasoline 5, autos 7, spontaneous combustion 5 and rubbish 9. Dwellings damaged numbered 90, as compared with 46 in October and 79 in December; stores numbered three, stores and dwellings 17, warehouses 20, factories 8, churches 1, schools 4 and garages 9.

It was stated in error last week that the building of the Gold Metal Mfg. Co. was damaged. The item should have read as follows: Building of the Pure Gold Mfg. Co. was damaged. Estimated loss, \$10,000. Insurance carried in about twenty-five companies.

Westport, Ont.—January 11—Blacksmith shop and barn, owned by Jas. E. McCann, were destroyed. Cause unknown. Estimated loss, \$2,000. Insurance carried in the Guardian Assurance Co., \$300.