

THE JANUARY FIRE LOSS.

In spite of the cold spell in the middle of the month, the fire record in Canada for January compares fairly favorably with January of last year. The largest reported loss of the month was the Frothingham and Workman warehouse in the Montreal wholesale district, which cost the insurance companies and Lloyds some \$250,000. This fire occurred with the thermometer well below 20 below zero, and like a good many other fires of the month was started by a plumber's torch. On the same day that this fire occurred there were five other considerable fires in Montreal, and a number of lesser outbreaks which brought up the number of alarms for the 24 hours to thirty-two. In point of expensiveness, the Didsbury, Alta., conflagration comes second to the Frothingham and Workman fire, but beyond these only two \$100,000 or over losses are reported for the month. This compares with seven such losses in January, 1912, when also the loss was swelled by the burning of P. Burns' packing factory at Calgary, entailing a \$1,000,000 loss. Six losses of between \$50,000 and \$100,000 were reported for last month against five a year ago.

The following is a list of the principal recorded fires of the month:—

Jan 14	PLACE	RISK	LOSS
1	Montreal	Residences	*\$ 36,500
1	Didsbury, Alta.	Store	12,000
1	Baynes Lake, B.C.	Conflagration	155,000
2	Winnipeg	Stores	14,000
5	Montreal	Store	20,000
6	Montreal	Hardware store	25,000
9	Winnipeg	Stores and hotel	21,000
10	Calgary, Alta.	Clothing store	12,000
10	Hamilton, Ont.	Storehouse and machine shop	20,000
10	Napanee, Ont.	Opera house and hotel	20,000
12	Quebec City	Saw mill and factory	100,000
13	Montreal	Wholesale warehouse	*250,000
13	Montreal	Mill and elevator	*53,000
13	Montreal	Block of flats	40,000
13	Montreal	Tenements	7,000
13	Montreal	Boiler house	15,000
13	Toronto, Ont.	Mnfg. premises	80,000
13	Lewiston, N.S.	Peg factory	50,000
13	Edmonton, Alta.	Store	20,000
13	Granby, Que.	Business block	6,000
13	Belleville, Ont.	Business block	30,000
13	New Westminster, B.C.	Electric car	5,000
14	Listowel, Ont.	Town Hall, etc.	10,000
15	Midland, Ont.	Business block	70,000
16	Sarnia, Ont.	Store	40,000
16	Joliette, Que.	Convent	10,000
19	Outremont, Que.	Kennels	5,000
19	Quebec City	Mnfg. Premises	15,000
20	Toronto, Ont.	Mnfg. Premises	*54,800
21	Montreal	Stores and Athletic Club	*61,000
22	Kingston, Ont.	Hotel	5,000
22	Wynyard, Sask.	Hotel	50,000
22	Sydney, N.S.	Business block	10,000
22	Paris, Ont.	Barns	6,300
25	Keene, Ont.	School	5,000
25	Windsor, Ont.	Stores and hotel	14,000
26	Winnipeg	W'ale warehouse	25,000
26	Calgary, Alta.	Newspaper office	20,000
26	Windsor, Ont.	Store	10,000
27	Tilbury, Ont.	Livery	25,000
27	Burlington, Ont.	Lumber mills	6,000
27	Sandwich, Ont.	Store	6,000
27	Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.	Residence	6,000
27	Vananda, B.C.	Mining Camp	5,500
28	Sandwich, Ont.	College	30,000
29	Dartmouth, N.S.	School	

* Insurance loss.

MORE TAXATION OF FIRE INSURANCE.

The public-spirited insurance officials who have been lately pushing the fire prevention movement in the Dominion must sometimes be surely tried by the people they are endeavoring to co-operate with. For some time past a campaign has been steadily pushed for the appointment of a fire marshal in Ontario, and now from somewhere or other a bill has made its appearance to go before the provincial legislature. This bill carefully provides that the cost of the fire marshal's office shall be foisted upon the insurance companies by means of an additional tax not exceeding one-third of one per cent. of their gross premiums received in Ontario during the previous year.

Why on earth should the fire companies have this new burden put upon them? Neither they nor their policyholders are the only people who are going to be benefited by the appointment of a fire marshal. If there is any benefit at all from the appointment, the whole public will share it and the whole public should pay for it. It is to be hoped the Ontario legislators will manage to get this elementary idea into their heads before this legislation passes.

GLOBE & RUTGERS FIRE TO ENTER CANADA.

Mr. J. W. Binnie Appointed Manager.

It is announced that the Globe & Rutgers Fire Insurance Company of New York, will enter Canada for business on the 1st March next. The necessary government deposit has already been arranged.

Mr. J. W. Binnie, deputy manager of the "Liverpool & London & Globe" and secretary of the "Liverpool-Manitoba," has been appointed Canadian manager. Mr. Binnie has been with the "Liverpool & London & Globe" for the past eleven years and Manager J. Gardner Thompson greatly regrets the loss of his services. The "Globe & Rutgers" is to be congratulated on having made a most excellent appointment. Mr. Binnie has had about twenty years experience in the business of fire insurance and will, no doubt, render a good account of himself with a company of such high standing as the Globe & Rutgers. Its assets on the 31st December, 1913, exceeded \$8,000,000, with a surplus to policyholders of over \$3,600,000.

Medicine Hat's offering in London this week of £162,900 5 per cent. 40-year debentures at 92 was oversubscribed.

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The Huron & Erie Loan & Savings Company will issue immediately \$400,000 paid-up stock at a premium of 100 per cent. to be allotted in the proportion of one new share to ten old shares held on January 26. The dividend will be placed on a straight 12 per cent. basis. After defraying the expenses of management and all other charges and making allowance for actual and possible losses the balance available for distribution for the year 1913 is \$556,179, of which \$184,208 was brought forward from the previous year's account and \$371,970 was the 1913 net profits.