

# The Canadian Engineer

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Managing Director.—James J. Salmond.

Managing Editor.—T. H. Hogg, B.A.Sc.

Advertising Manager.—A. E. Jennings.

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HEAD OFFICE: 62 Church Street, and Court Street, Toronto, Ont.  
Telephone, Main 7404 and 7405, branch exchange connecting all departments.

Montreal Office: B33, Board of Trade Building. T. C. Allum, Editorial Representative, Phone M. 1001.

Winnipeg Office: Room 404, Builders' Exchange Building. Phone M. 7550.  
G. W. Goodall, Business and Editorial Representative.

London Office: Grand Trunk Building, Cockspur Street, Trafalgar Square,  
T. R. Clougher, Business and Editorial Representative. Telephone  
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## CANADA'S APPALLING FIRE WASTE.

The fire losses in Canada for the first eight months of the current year total \$15,381,825, an average of \$1,922,728 per month. This is equal to a daily loss of \$63,299. In other words, \$2,637 worth of property has been burned every hour since the new year dawned, or \$44 every minute. This is an appalling fire loss, and little is being done to check such extravagant waste of capital. The losses during 1909 and 1910 are as follow:—

Month.	1909.	1910.
January .....	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,275,246
February .....	1,263,005	756,625
March .....	851,690	1,076,235
April .....	720,650	1,717,237
May .....	3,358,276	2,735,535
June .....	1,360,275	1,500,000
July .....	1,075,600	6,386,674
August .....	2,582,915	1,667,270
September .....	1,615,405	894,125
October .....	2,208,718	2,195,781
November .....	935,191	1,943,708
December .....	1,433,813	1,444,860

Total .....

\$18,905,538	\$23,593,315
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Adding to these figures the total for the first eight months of 1910, we have a fire loss in thirty-two months of \$57,880,678, an average monthly loss of \$1,808,771. In addition, there has to be recorded a disastrous list of fire fatalities. Last month in Canada twenty-two people met their death in fires. During the first eight months of the year 250 lives were sacrificed in the same manner. In the thirty-two months since January, 1909, no less than 728 persons lost their lives in fires, a monthly average of almost 23 persons. The following table gives the details:—

Month.	1909.	1910.	1911.
January .....	16	27	27
February .....	8	15	12
March .....	16	20	18
April .....	18	37	20
May .....	21	15	28
June .....	16	52	13
July .....	4	15	110
August .....	17	11	22
September .....	10	10	..
October .....	26	16	..
November .....	34	19	..
December .....	33	19	..
Total .....	219	256	250

Carelessness has been responsible for the greater part of this loss of life and property. For instance, of the 22 deaths last month, 7 were caused by stove, spirit lamp and coal oil explosions and 3 by clothes catching fire. The presumed causes responsible for fires during August and the number of fires for which they accounted were as follows: Ten, lightning; eight, incendiarism; five, defective wiring; four, bush fires; three, spontaneous combustion; three, careless with cigars and cigarettes; two, forest fires; two, careless with matches; three, oil stoves upset, and one each of the following: Defective gas plate, smoking in bed, defective drying-room, spark from threshing machine, defective auto lamp, rats and matches, asphalt boiling over, sparks from engine, film coming in contact with electric wires, gasoline explosion, hot ashes, sparks from mill,