

FIRE CHIEFS' REPORTS

BRANDON'S FIRE LOSSES.

Interesting Report from Fire Chief—Evidence of Increased Efficiency—Causes of Fires.

Number of alarms .....	105
Estimated loss .....	\$19,385

The report which Fire Chief Melhuish of Brandon, Man., has prepared of the last year's work is complete in every detail and is full of interesting facts and figures. During the last year the total fire loss in the city outside the asylum fire, over which the department had no control, was only \$19,385, which is a remarkable record in a town with a population of about fourteen thousand. The losses in 1909 were \$92,242.

During the year there were 105 alarms, sixty-one by telephone and forty-four from street boxes. The fires attended were in thirty-eight instances in wood buildings, twenty-nine fires were in brick and stone structures, twelve in outbuildings, cars, rubbish and burning grass and twenty-six of the calls were to chimney fires.

The chief makes some suggestions in his report with a view to perfecting the facilities for fire protection.

July the Worst Month.

The heaviest loss made in any month was in July, when the Empire Hotel blaze occurred and the total damage was \$13,000, about two-thirds of the total loss for the year. The only fire in which there was no insurance was the destruction of the Hanbury Company's car of horses on the Canadian Northern Railway track. The loss was \$2,500. The losses by months were as follows:—

	Buildings.	Contents.
January .....	\$ 945.00	\$ 130.00
February .....	.....	.....
March .....	.....	.....
April .....	20.00	1,525.00
May .....	.....	350.00
June .....	40.00	55.00
July .....	11,000.00	2,000.00
August .....	425.00	20.00
September .....	200.00	20.00
October .....	50.00	50.00
November .....	55.00	.....

How Fires Were Caused.

The causes of the fires and alarms for the year 1910 were as follows: Children playing with matches, 7; burning chimneys, 33; burning rubbish, 12; defective electric wiring, 2; defective furnaces, 3; defective grates, 2; defective stoves and ranges, 4; defective stove pipes, 2; escaping smoke taken for fire, 3; explosion of coal stoves and lamps, 2; explosion of gasoline, 3; false alarms, 3; fireworks, 1; candle in contact with curtains, 1; hot ashes, 2; ignition of boiling tar, 1; practice runs for "Underwriters, etc.", 2; prairie fires, 2; spark from locomotive engines, 3; spontaneous combustion, 2; sparks from forge, 1; overturned incense lamp, 1; overheated stoves and pipes, 4; overturned lantern in car, 1; unknown causes, 8; total, 105. The department now is composed of fifteen permanent officers and six call men.

VICTORIA'S FIRE LOSS.

Fire Chief's Annual Report—Some Interesting Figures.

Number of alarms .....	197
Total loss on building and contents .....	\$573,896
Total insurance on building and contents..	832,305

While 1910 was one of the most disastrous years in the matter of fire loss in the history of the city of Victoria, B.C., yet, with the exception of the Spencer conflagration, the loss would have been small. Fire Chief Davis has compiled his annual report, which shows that the year's loss occasioned by fire amounted to \$573,896.60, practically all of which is accounted for by the big fire on the evening of October 26th, 1910.

The amount of fire loss on buildings and contents for the year (not including the fire of October 26th) amounts

to \$41,771, at the rate of \$213.11 1-2 distributed over each of the 197 alarms received. The other amounted to \$552,125. Total loss on buildings and contents, \$573,896.60, with insurance of \$832,305.00.

Some Interesting Figures.

The following table gives particulars of loss and insurance with the number of alarms each month:—

	Alarms.	Loss on bldgs.	Loss on contents.	Insurance on bldgs.	Insurance on cont's.
January ....	16	\$ 9,513.00	\$ 6,875.00	\$ 12,550	\$ 7,000
February ...	13	370.00	93.00	3,000	7,100
March .....	23	1,103.10	3,607.43	13,300	30,000
April .....	13	5.00	.....	3,800	.....
May .....	8	50.00	41.72	7,000	.....
June .....	16	1,605.00	152.75	6,400	2,000
July .....	32	2,307.75	9,376.00	23,100	11,250
August ....	29	125.00	370.00	12,930	1,500
September .	12	.....	.....	.....	.....
October ....	4	160,550.00	371,575.00	242,500	425,975
November ..	14	1,110.35	700.00	4,500	1,400
December ..	17	370.00	36.50	14,000	3,000
Total ....	197	\$181,069.20	\$392,827.40	\$843,080	\$489,225

OTTAWA FIRE LOSS.

Figures Show a Decrease—Efficiency of Inspection—Some Interesting Statistics.

Number of alarms received .....	316
Estimated Loss .....	\$ 138,420
Insurance .....	1,312,905
Estimated loss decrease from 1909 .....	142,099

In presenting his first annual report to the city council of Ottawa, Fire Chief Graham gives a thorough résumé of the work of his department for 1910. During the year 316 alarms were received, being an increase of 89 over 1909. The estimated loss involved by the 316 alarms was \$138,420, with an insurance of \$1,312,905, the total fire loss being a decrease of \$142,099, from 1909, notwithstanding the fact that two fires alone, for which extra alarms were sounded, resulted in an estimated loss of \$66,225. On the 314 remaining fires the loss entailed was only \$72,195.

Efficiency of Inspection.

"The decrease in the amount of fire loss," says the report, "is most gratifying and is believed to be due, in great part, to efforts looking toward the prevention of fire, which work has come to be recognized as of equal importance with the actual extinguishing of fire."

The inspection of mercantile establishments, hotels, apartment houses, office buildings, yards, cellars, etc., was vigorously prosecuted, 5,972 calls in all being made by the chief and his men.

Enforcement of By-laws.

The enforcement of the by-laws relating to the installation of fire escapes, fire extinguishers, alarm gongs, signal lights, etc., in hotels, apartment houses, mercantile houses, office buildings, schools, hospitals, convents, asylums, etc., has been made the object of special care.

Referring to his inspection of the government buildings at the invitation of the Minister of Public Works, the chief says that his report has not been acted upon to any great extent.

The theatres and moving picture places were rigorously inspected at regular intervals, and the regulations strictly enforced.

Some Interesting Statistics.

The present strength of the force is 84, made up as follows: Chief of department, 1; district chiefs, 2; secretary, 1; captains of companies, 11; lieutenants of companies, 6; engineers of steamers, 3; assistants, 3; laddermen, 18; pipemen, 36; engine drivers, 3.

The following apparatus is at present in the department: Three steam fire engines, 1 eighty-five foot aerial turn table hook and ladder truck and portable water tower combined; 4 city hook and ladder trucks, with two fire extinguishers; 11 hose wagons, with two fire extinguishers attached; 3 coal wagons; 6 hook and ladder sleighs; 11 two-horse sleighs; 2 coal sleighs; 1 eighty-five-foot aerial truck.

February was the heaviest month in the year for fire losses, the total on buildings being \$11,822, and on contents \$29,942. This was the big lower town fire which started at Derrivier's planing mill. May was the next highest, with \$12,846, on buildings, and \$22,303 on contents. The total loss on buildings was \$57,017.40, and on contents \$81,403.