

JANUARY FIRE LOSSES

Six Business Sections Destroyed Last Month—Many Large Fires Reported

The *Monetary Times*' estimate of Canada's fire loss during January, 1918, is \$2,688,556, compared with the December, 1917, loss of \$5,144,100 and \$1,918,660 for January, 1917. The following is the estimate of the January losses:—

Fires exceeding \$10,000	\$2,222,900
Small fires reported	114,975
Estimate for unreported fires (15 per cent. of total)	350,681

Total

The *Monetary Times*' record of the past four years shows the following monthly losses:—

	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
January	\$ 1,249,886	\$ 1,649,217	\$ 1,918,660	\$ 2,688,556
February	1,019,556	3,275,600	2,009,953	.....
March	1,632,696	1,406,501	2,050,650	.....
April	1,493,747	1,460,437	1,317,714	.....
May	881,855	1,850,205	1,163,110	.....
June	1,157,156	494,557	1,184,627	.....
July	773,269	3,039,634	1,101,734	.....
August	403,693	1,057,109	1,230,183	.....
September	1,116,109	981,703	1,301,700	.....
October	1,200,325	1,077,815	704,605	.....
November	1,087,980	923,235	959,049	.....
December	1,505,255	3,271,406	5,144,100	.....

Totals .. \$13,671,527 \$20,487,509 \$20,086,085 \$ 2,688,556

The fires reported in January at which the losses amounted to \$10,000 and over were:—

Hartland, N.B., January 4, C. H. Taylor's brick block, \$18,000.
 Hamilton, Ont., January 9, Gage Avenue School, \$14,000.
 Hamilton, Ont., January 9, Rilett block, \$33,000.
 Knowlton, Que., January 4, summer residence of John Bailey, \$15,000.
 Montreal, Que., January 1, Arena Ice Plant and several houses, \$100,000.
 Munson, Alta., January 2, business block, \$35,000.
 Peterboro, Ont., January 6, Peterboro Canoe Company's factory, \$40,000.
 Quebec, Que., January 4, employees' residence, storage house and many motor and other vehicles, \$10,000.
 Toronto, Ont., January 6, Toronto Ferry Company's dock, \$30,000.
 St. Joseph, Que., January 3, four houses, \$10,000.
 St. John, N.B., January 2, jewelry store of A. B. Smalley, \$50,000.
 St. John, N.B., January 2, Hamm Brothers' biscuit manufacturing buildings, \$100,000.
 St. John, N.B., January 4, residence of Mr. F. E. Williams, \$35,000.
 Vancouver, B.C., January 8, H. A. Timms' printing plant, \$30,000.
 Westmount, Que., January 5, block of brick houses, \$15,000.
 Winnipeg, Man., January 8, Winnipeg Brass Company's premises, \$10,000.
 Listowel, Ont., January 13, large business block, \$200,000.
 Peterboro, Ont., January 10, Boston Cafe, \$15,000.
 Welland, Ont., January 16, premises of the Chinese Y.M.C.A. and two adjoining houses, \$25,000.
 Bathurst, N.B., January 20, Robertson Hotel, \$22,000.
 Edmonton, Alta., January 15, John McKinnon's livery barn and 19 horses, \$10,000.
 Montreal, Que., January 18, B. Silver & Company's furrier establishment, \$25,000.
 St. Catharines, Ont., January 21, Daily Journal newspaper office, \$15,000.
 St. John, N.B., January 20, Main Street tenement, \$10,000.
 Toronto, Ont., January 23, Ticonix building, \$8,300.
 Brandon, Man., January 23, business block, \$200,000.
 Peterboro, Ont., January 26, business block, \$500,000.
 Guelph, Ont., January 27, dry goods establishment of G. B. Ryan & Company, \$225,000.
 Edmonton, Alta., January 26, Sandison block, \$25,000.
 St. Lambert, Que., January 29, large office building, \$20,000.

Cabono, Que., January 20, D. Frazer & Sons' lumber mills, \$20,000.

Picton, Ont., January 28, Picton Hotel, \$10,000.

Hespeler, Ont., January 23, Hespeler Roman Catholic church, \$13,000.

Joliette, Que., January 25, St. Viateur Academy, \$100,000.

New Ross, N.S., January 28, mill of N. S. Manganese Company, \$100,000.

Winnipeg, Man., January 26, Monadnock block, \$20,000.

Parry Sound, Ont., January 15, Rose Point Hotel, \$25,500.

Bardon, Ont., Blubacher factory, \$22,400.

Chatham, Ont., January 5, Dominion Steel Company's plant, \$15,000.

Gananoque, Ont., January 14, Ontario Steel Products Company's plant, \$14,700.

Norwich, Ont., January 13, Wood Flour Mills, \$12,000.

Ottawa, Ont., January 10, Water Street Catholic Hospital, \$25,000.

Destroyed or Damaged.

The structures damaged or destroyed last month were:—

Residences, 16; stores, 4; vacant house, 1; printing plants, 3; factories, 6; brick blocks, 2; business buildings, 3; hotels, 5; plants, 7; livery barns, 2; boathouses, 2; shoe repair shop, 1; army building, 1; frame shed, 1; freight shed, 1; lumber mill, 1; boarding house, 1; flour mills, 2; woolen mill, 1; farm house, 1; club building, 1; apartment house, 1; theatre, 1; school, 1; employees' residence, 1; convent, 1; storage shed, 1; manufacturing buildings, 3; Jewish synagogue, 1; dairy, 1; hospital, 1; cafe, 1; oil tanks, 3; church, 1; military hospital, 1; academy, 1; warehouse, 1; ferry dock, 1; tenement, 1; barns, 3; roundhouse, 1; railway station, 1; business blocks, 6.

The causes of fires reported were:—Conflagration after an explosion, 1; hot ashes, 1; overheated stove, 2; defective controller, 1; playing with matches, 1; fire from blazing dock, 1; spontaneous combustion, 1; overheated stove pipe, 1; crossed electric wires, 1; igniting of gas from oil tank, 1; cat upsetting oil stove, 1; thawing out frozen pipes, 2; chimney fire, 1; explosion of oil stove, 1; explosion of gas main, 1; rats nibbling matches, 1; explosion of gas, 1; explosion of acetylene tank, 1; gas left burning over night, 1.

Many Fatalities Last Month.

The following is a list of the fires at which fatalities occurred last month:—

Ingersoll, Ont., January 3..	Explosion at plant	2
Quebec, Que., January 4..	Trapped in employees' residence	1
Dawson, Man., January 4..	Trapped in burning house..	1
Winnipeg, Man., January 5.	Fire from gas grate	1
Stoneham, N.B., January 7.	Clothing took fire from stove	1
Westlock, Alta., January 7.	Trapped in burning house..	1
Edmonton, Alta., January 7	Trapped in burning house..	1
Ottawa, Ont., January 10..	Trapped in burning hospital	5
Peterboro, Ont., January 10	Trapped in burning cafe....	1
Mimico, Ont., January 11..	Trapped in burning train caboose	3
Windsor, Ont., January 23..	Trapped in burning house..	2
London, Ont., January 20.	Playing with matches	1
Guelph, Ont., January 24..	Igniting coal oil	1
Montreal, Que., January 25.	Trapped in burning house..	4
Toronto, Ont., January 31.	Fire from gas heater.....	1
Regina, Sask., January 31.	Trapped in burning house..	2

Total

The following table compiled by *The Monetary Times*, shows deaths caused by fire during January, as compared with previous returns:—

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
January	27	27	14	26	3	10	21	28
February	12	11	21	18	11	23	19	..
March	18	24	22	27	23	23	20	..
April	20	15	11	22	14	6	15	..
May	28	18	33	8	5	14	12	..
June	13	6	18	12	2	6	9	..
July	110	9	9	8	13	268	19	..
August	22	16	29	3	14	30	12	..
September	13	6	27	9	27	6	21	..
October	17	21	15	9	7	39	23	..
November	20	22	24	14	12	12	21	..
December	17	28	13	19	11	94	15	..
Totals	317	203	236	175	142	531	207	28