

VANCOUVER'S MARCH FIRE LOSS.

Vancouver fire department responded to 53 alarms during March divided as follows:—Chimney fires 6, false alarms 5, smoke scares 4, back fire in carburetter 1, fires where damage resulted 26, small fires where no damage occurred 11. The estimated damage by fire and water was \$44,876, with insurance paid \$24,752, leaving the loss above insurance \$20,124. The total value of property involved was \$519,455.

A complete list of alarms where damage occurred follows:—

March 1.—Telephone alarm at 12.26 a.m. Small fire in rubbish in Chinese quarters in basement at the Hotel Vancouver. Cause unknown. Damage \$6. Telephone alarm at 9.49 p.m. Small fire on stairway and first floor at 818 Keefer Street, caused by an old lady falling down stairs with an oil lamp. Building owned and occupied by J. W. Windebank. Damage \$10. Mrs. Frances H. Green was severely burned and sustained a broken right arm when she fell down the stairs while carrying a lighted oil lamp, and died at the General Hospital in the morning.

March 2.—Alarm from Box 523 at 12.01 a.m. Fire in frame cottage in rear of 228 Harris Street, caused by an overheated stovepipe. Building owned by Mr. Sankey and occupied by J. Demichel and used as a dwelling. Damage \$150, partly covered by insurance. Alarm from Box 28 at 7.40 a.m. Small fire in building at 89 Pender Street East, caused by wood being piled too close to stove. Building owned and occupied by Man On Tong as a dwelling. Damage \$5. Alarm from Box 12 at 8.12 a.m. Fire in a barber shop in the basement of the Leigh-Spencer Building, 551 Granville Street. Cause unknown. Barber shop occupied by E. Gagnon. Damage \$600, covered by insurance.

March 3.—Telephone alarm at 1.15 a.m. Fire in back porch in rear of building at 2146 1st Avenue West. Cause unknown. Building owned by Mrs. E. G. Wilson and occupied by C. R. Watson and used as a dwelling. Damage \$350, covered by insurance.

March 5.—Alarm from Box 53 at 3.25 a.m. Fire in shed in rear of 1024 Richard Street, caused by hot ashes. Shed was destroyed. Damage \$85.

March 7.—Alarm from Box 1213 at 9.05 a.m. Fire in the kitchen at 33 10th Avenue West, caused by drying clothes too close to stove. Building owned by Mr. Derbyshire and occupied by H. Godley and used as a dwelling. Damage \$40, partly covered by insurance. Mrs. Godley was slightly burned about the face in trying to extinguish the above fire.

March 10.—Telephone alarm at 8.10 a.m. Small fire in a frame building at 1921 Powell Street, caused by throwing lighted match into some rubbish. Building owned and occupied by B. Taylor and used as a shoe store. Damage \$127, covered by insurance.

March 11.—Alarm from Box 37 at 3.11 a.m. Fire in the attic of a frame building at 436 Main Street, owned by J. J. Tulk and occupied by Biswanger and Cline, and used as a fruit and tobacconist store. The adjoining store occupied by Mr. McPherson and used as a tailor shop was also damaged. (No. 432). Cause unknown. Damage \$862, covered by insurance. Alarm from Box 718 at 7.30 p.m. Fire in basement of a frame dwelling owned and occupied by J. E. Clark. Cause unknown. Damage \$100, covered by insurance.

March 15.—Telephone alarm at 3.56 a.m. Fire in a frame building owned by Mr. Seknie and occupied by Mr. Wellison and used as a restaurant and rooming house. Fire started in a small room in the rear of restaurant and the cause was probably spontaneous combustion. Location, 355 Powell Street. Damage \$100, partly covered by insurance.

March 17.—Alarm from Box 21 at 6.10 a.m. Fire in the Bell-Irving Block at the corner of Richards and Cordova Streets. Fire started in two rooms upstairs occupied by the City Map and White Print Company. Some damage was done by water to the occupants of the underneath stores in getting blaze under control. Building was owned by Mrs. Bell-Irving and used for stores and offices. Cause unknown. Damage \$3,084, covered by insurance.

March 18.—Telephone alarm at 12.41 a.m. Passenger coach on fire at the Great Northern Railway depot, Pender and Columbia, caused by an overheated stove. Damage \$1,500, covered by insurance. Telephone alarm at 5.56 a.m. Fire in a brick house at 221 Harris Street, owned by George King and occupied by Tony Fredericks, and used as a restaurant, with rooms above. Fire started at base of range in kitchen, gutting same, and getting under the floor and into the ceiling before being extinguished. Cause, overheated and defective range. Damage \$300, covered by insurance.

March 19.—Telephone alarm at 5.05 a.m. Small fire in a "sporting house" at 710 Alexander Street, owned and occupied by Blanche Lewis. Caused by the explosion of an alcohol lamp. Damage \$16, covered by insurance.

March 20.—Alarm from Box 264 at 1.30 a.m. Fire in a frame building at 251 6th Avenue East, owned by Mrs. Clough and occupied by Wong Kee Lee and used as a Chinese laundry. The fire started between the wall and the chimney (which was built against the back of the house) and spread to the roof before being extinguished. Cause, overheated chimney. Damage \$50.

March 21.—Telephone alarm at 12.15 p.m. Small fire in a concrete block at 1411 Commercial Drive. Fire started in Room No. 9 on the third floor, between some paper and the wall, behind the stove. Building owned by Mrs. K. Moore and used as stores and apartments. Cause, overheated stove. Damage \$35, partly covered by insurance. Telephone alarm at 1.10 p.m. Small fire on the first floor in a kitchen at 25½ Canton Alley, building owned by Yen Lick and Company and occupied by Chinese, and used as stores and rooms. Cause, overheated stove. Damage, \$20, covered by insurance.

March 25.—Telephone alarm at 2.37 a.m. to 122 Hastings Street West. Fire on the stage at the rear of the Savoy Theatre. The fire had great headway on when the department arrived, having spread to the third floor by way of the elevator shaft, and doing considerable damage there. The occupants of the basement suffered some loss from smoke and water. The building was owned by Cook and Craig and occupied by the Canadian Amusement Company, Bailey and Gunn, and Fletcher Brothers in the basement. Cause unknown. Estimated damage, about \$11,600, partly covered by insurance. Verbal alarm at 8.52 a.m. to Cordova Street and Gore Avenue, a frame building owned by the Seamen's Institute, and occupied by Rev. F. M. Ryan and used as a Mission to Seamen. The fire, which started in the upstairs portion of the building, burned with great rapidity owing to the very inflammable nature of the structure which was composed wholly of wood, and the whole of the upper story was gutted, and the roof burned off. Cause, overheated stove. Damage \$1,700, partly covered by insurance. Alarm from Box 126 at 12.55 p.m. Small fire on roof of old wooden shed at 435 Railway Street, owned by Canadian Pacific Railway and occupied by the British Columbia Electric Railway Company and used as a storage shed. Caused by an overheated stovepipe which projected through the roof. Damage \$5. Alarm from Box 139 at 4.45 p.m. Fire on the roof of a frame dwelling at 721 Hastings Street East, owned by J. J. Hall and occupied by Mrs. Scoules. Cause, sparks from chimney. Damage \$5.

March 26.—Alarm from Box 2122 at 8.00 a.m. Fire in a frame building at the corner of Eton and Slovan Streets, owned and occupied by Hemphill Brothers and used as a garage. The fire had a great hold before the apparatus arrived and the whole of the building and contents were a total loss. Cause unknown. Damage \$13,000. Telephone alarm at 8.48 a.m. to 518 Hastings Street West. Small fire on the second floor of brick building owned by Mahon, McFarland and Proctor (agents) and used for stores and offices. Cause unknown. Damage \$75, covered by insurance.

March 27.—Telephone alarm at 3.00 a.m. to 3572 Point Grey Road. Fire in the basement of a frame dwelling owned and occupied by Mr. Fitzlander, probably caused by an explosion of gasoline. Damage \$7,500, partly covered by insurance.

March 31.—Telephone alarm at 10.15 a.m. to 1545 8th Avenue West. Fire in a clothes closet in an upstairs bedroom of a frame dwelling owned and occupied by Mr. Thompson. Cause unknown. Damage \$40, covered by insurance.

Hose laid at fires during the month was 21,250 feet; chemical used at fires during the month was 1,680 gallons.

TORONTO CITY MAY PURCHASE RAILWAY

On Thursday afternoon, April 17th, the Toronto city council held a special meeting, and, without discussion, unanimously decided to ask for legislation granting power to make the purchase of the Toronto Electric Light and Toronto Railway Companies. In the evening Mr. W. K. McNaught (North Toronto) introduced the bill in the Ontario legislature, the rules were suspended, and the measure was given a first and second reading.

By the provisions of the bill:—

The city of Toronto is given permission to acquire by purchase all existing street railway lines in the city, and such portions outside the city as are necessary. Also the rights and franchise of the Toronto Electric Light Company.

The electors of the city must pass upon the proposition before the city council can buy out the companies.

The city, without consent of the ratepayers, can issue forty-year debentures sufficient to provide a sum to purchase the franchises.

The city gets all the rights and privileges now enjoyed by the Toronto Railway and Toronto Electric Light companies.

The control of the municipal enterprises is vested in a commission to consist of three or five members, of which the mayor, ex-officio, shall not be a member.