

FEBRUARY FIRE LOSSES.

Several Large Fires—Saskatoon Fire Rate Reduced—
Some Interesting Fire Notes.

The Monetary Times' estimate of Canada's fire losses for the month of February is \$941,045, as compared with \$756,625 for the corresponding period last year and \$1,263,005 in February, 1909.

There were nineteen fires during the month at which the damage was \$10,000 and over. Montreal had two large fires towards the close of the month; the automobile garage, etc., where 45 automobiles were destroyed; and Ives Modern Bedstead Company, Limited, whose four storey warehouse and stock of about 15,000 iron bedsteads were a total loss. The loss in each case is estimated at \$150,000.

The following is an estimate of the February losses:

Fires exceeding \$10,000	\$741,000
Small fires	77,300
Fifteen per cent. for unreported fires.....	122,745

Total \$941,045

The following are the monthly totals compared with 1909 and 1910:—

	1909.	1910.	1911.
January	\$1,500,000	\$1,275,246	\$2,250,550
February	1,263,005	756,625	941,045
March	851,690	1,076,253	
April	720,650	1,717,237	10,000
May	3,358,276	2,735,536	
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	\$3,191,595

The fires at which damage to the extent of \$10,000 and over occurred were as follows:—

Town.	What were burned.	Estimated damage.
Sherbrooke, Que.	Business Block	\$15,000
Halifax, N.S.	do.	15,000
Montreal, Que.	Store	25,000
do.	Residence	10,000
do.	Convent School	70,000
Ladner, B.C.	Lumber Mill	20,000
Farnham, Que.	Business Block	40,000
Edmundston, N.B. ..	Hotel	10,000
Elk Lake, Ont.	Opera House, etc.	12,000
Vancouver, B.C.	Church	14,000
Millbrook, Ont.	Flour Mill	20,000
Virden, Man.	do.	25,000
Hensall, Ont.	Business Section	55,000
Montreal, Que.	Grocery Warehouse	75,000
do.	Twelve Flats	15,000
do.	Automobile Garage, etc.	150,000
do.	Bedstead Factory	150,000
Macoun, Sask.	Business Section	10,000
New Dublin, Ont. ...	General Store	10,000
Total		\$741,000

Structures Which Were Destroyed.

The following structures were destroyed:—37 stores, 36 residences, 6 business sections, 7 factories, 7 barns and stables, 3 hotels, 2 carpenter shops, 2 hospitals, 2 flour mills, 2 lumber mills, and one each of the following:—moving picture show, opera house, lunch counter, tannery, garage, cafe, distillery, generating plant, undertaking establishment, street car, foundry, church, lock-up, convent, lighthouse tower, farm, station, post office, schooner, freight sheds, charge house, also 45 automobiles, 21 horses and 2 cows.

Causes of Fires.

Of the presumed causes to which fires were attributed, defective furnaces were responsible for 6; overheated pipes, 3; upset lamps, 3; defective chimneys, 2; overheated stoves, 2; cigar stubs carelessly thrown, 2; while the following were responsible for one fire each:—oakum, lighted paper, kerosine, lamp explosion, lighted match carelessly thrown, playing with matches, incendiarism, spontaneous combustion, frozen pipe, upset stove, tapping barrel of japan, defective wiring, feathers, tar, spark from engine. A large number of fires were of unknown origin.

Many Children Burned to Death.

Twelve deaths were caused by fire during last month, a decrease of three, as compared with the corresponding

period last year and an increase of four over February, 1909. There were ten fires at which loss of life occurred.

Unfortunately, several children are included in last month's total. At Montreal, two children were burned to death while their mother was attending a moving picture show. At Toronto a three-year old baby died from burns received as a result of playing with matches. At St. Thomas an Assyrian family had a remarkable escape from death by burning. Had it not been for the barking of a fox terrier dog which awakened the family they might have lost their lives.

The particulars of the February fatalities were as follows:—

Alexandria, Ont.	Clothes caught fire	1
Chatham, Ont.	Upset stove	1
Toronto, Ont.	Upset lamp	1
Montreal, Que.	Burning building	2
Smith's Falls, Ont. ..	do.	1
Quebec, P.Q.	do.	2
Dauphin, Man.	do.	1
Montreal, Que.	Clothes caught fire	1
Toronto, Ont.	Playing with matches	1
New Germany, N.S.	Burning car	1

12

The following are the monthly totals compared with the two previous years:—

	1909.	1910.	1911.
January	16	27	27
February	8	15	12
March	16	20	..
April	18	37	..
May	21	15	..
June	16	52	..
July	4	15	..
August	17	11	..
September	10	10	..
October	26	16	..
November	34	19	..
December	33	19	..
Total	219	256	39

Saskatoon Fire Rate Reduced.

The lighthouse tower at Grindstone Island, N.B., was completely destroyed. The fire occurred through the explosion of one of the four big lamps. The island is about a hundred miles up the Bay of Fundy from St. John, and the light is an important aid to navigation, especially in the summer season.

Messrs. Beddome & Brown have been awarded the contract for accident insurance on the London, Ont., firemen for the sum of \$15.95 per man.

The key rate of the fire insurance of the city of Saskatoon is to be reduced. Notices to this effect are being sent out by the Western Canada board of fire underwriters. The reduction is one of 5c. on the rate, which is now reduced from 75c. to 70c. on the \$1,000, and it will make a very material difference on the insurance premiums of property owners throughout the city.

That the fire originated in a chimney, was the conclusion come to at the inquiry by the Montreal Fire Commissioners regarding the fire which occurred in a block of flats on Hutchinson street recently. The chimney was used by three households and had not been cleaned for several months.

Mr. Adrien Hudon, 79 Edward avenue, Ottawa, charged with arson, has been committed for trial. He pleaded not guilty and elected to be tried by a jury. It is alleged that he set fire to a tailor shop of his brother, Mr. Silvia Hudon, at 278 Dalhousie street, Ottawa. The evidence showed that Hudon was seen in the shop, that the shop was saturated with coal oil and a fire had been started in the cellar and attic. When arrested, Hudon was found to have oil on his hands and boots.

Rev. Z. B. Grass, a minister, was arraigned in the Dorchester, N.B. Supreme Court recently, charged with setting fire to his residence at Moncton, while the members of the household were attending church. The fire was discovered in the attic, where kindlings, partly burned paper and a torch were found. Mr. Grass has not had any settled pastorate of late. The grand jury found no indictment and he was discharged.

Mr. G. W. Vaux, general passenger agent for the Grand Trunk Railway, has resigned owing, it is said, to ill-health. This will necessitate several changes on the Grand Trunk Railway system. Mr. H. G. Elliott, assistant general passenger agent of the company, at Chicago, becomes general passenger agent, with headquarters in Montreal. Mr. James D. McDonald, district passenger agent of the Grand Trunk Railway, has been promoted to be assistant general passenger agent of the system, with headquarters at Chicago. Mr. A. E. Duff, general agent for the company at Winnipeg, will go to Toronto in place of Mr. McDonald.