

HAMILTON'S FIRE DEPARTMENT

Last Year's Loss Was Heavier—Monthly Returns—Fire Chief Teneyck's Recommendations

During 1912 Hamilton's fire department responded to 422 alarms. This exceeds the number that has occurred in the city in any one year in the history of the department, being 56 more than in the year 1911. There were 238 day alarms and 184 night alarms, 13 from street signal boxes, 340 telephone calls, 10 on Dominion Messenger and Signal Telephone, 2 on May-Oatway fire alarm system and 57 stills. Of the above number of calls for the services of the department, 181 were for fires of a more or less serious nature. Sunday alarms totalled 49, Monday 56, Tuesday 58, Wednesday 62, Thursday 50, Friday 78, Saturday 69, and morning alarms were most frequent at 11 a.m., afternoon alarms at 3 p.m. and night alarms at midnight.

Two-thirds Due to Five Fires.

The total loss by fire and water for the year was \$167,281.46. Total insurance on property damaged or destroyed, \$4,178,125. Insurance over loss, \$4,019,377.54. Loss not covered by insurance, \$8,534. Over two-thirds of the total loss for the year was due to five fires alone, namely:—The Dominion Vinegar Company, vinegar works, 41 Stuart Street West, January 13th; the Robert Duncan Company, printing office and bindery, James Street North, February 5th; the Marshall Shoe and Leather Company, shoe store, etc., 323 King Street East, February 22nd; the American Can Company, can factory, Emerald and Shaw Streets, April 23rd; the Diamond Flint Glass Company, glass factory, 439 Hughson Street North, May 18th, involving a total loss of \$112,060.74, leaving a loss of \$55,220.72 for the remaining 176 fires, or an average of \$313.69 for each fire.

Loss Month by Month.

The number of fires each month with loss and insurance was as follows:—

Month.	Fires.	Loss.	Insurance.
January	27	\$ 25,512.38	\$ 63,850
February	19	69,008.77	287,650
March	17	6,873.55	148,800
April	13	24,871.00	609,000
May	13	24,961.05	1,367,525
June	14	2,888.09	174,160
July	16	1,709.90	133,725
August	11	1,081.22	56,600
September	7	1,180.00	74,400
October	16	3,560.50	89,500
November	11	1,332.00	1,030,475
December	17	4,213.00	142,440

Total 181 \$167,281.46 \$4,178,125

Hamilton's total loss during the last 33 years has been \$21,683,759.

Recommendations of Fire Chief.

In this comprehensive report of Fire Chief Teneyck, carelessness is definitely stated as the direct cause of 36 fires, while other causes that could probably have been eliminated if proper precautions had been taken by individuals were children and matches 32, electrical defects 19, spontaneous combustion 17, cigar and cigarette stubs 9, matchheads breaking off 8, hot ashes 3. Among the recommendations for increased fire protection are a new fire alarm system, a 30,000,000 gallon reservoir, larger water mains, two motor tractors, motor combination chemical and hose wagon, automobile hook and ladder truck.

The total expenditure of the Hamilton fire department during 1912 was \$92,842.

SEVERAL COMPANIES HAVE INCREASED CAPITAL

The capital stock of the Cameron Heap Company, Limited, has been increased from \$100,000 to \$500,000 by the creation of 4,000 shares of new stock of \$100 each.

The Canadian Credit Men's Association Limited, which we reported last week to have changed its name to the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association had increased its capital stock from \$5,000 to \$100,000, the increase consisting of 9,500 shares of \$10 each.

The capital stock of the Standard Iron Company, Limited, has been increased from \$100,000 to \$300,000, the increase consisting of 2,000 shares of \$100 each.

The Barcelona Traction, Light and Power Company, Limited, has increased its capital stock from \$30,000,000 to \$42,000,000, the increase consisting of 125,000 7 per cent. non-cumulative preference shares of \$100 each.

ONTARIO'S WOOD-USING INDUSTRIES

Utilize Thirty-four Varieties of Woods—Prices Compel Search for Possible Substitutes

Thirty-four different kinds of wood are being used by wood industries, and the detailed information regarding the various uses to which such woods are put by 1,200 Ontario industries should be of considerable value, not only to the manufacturer by showing new means of waste disposal, but also to the householder by indicating what native woods are best fitted to replace the more expensive imported stock for interior decoration, furniture and flooring.

A bulletin which also shows incidentally the increasing poverty of Ontario with regard to the more valuable work-woods is being issued by the Forest branch of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa. Almost half of the thirty-four kinds of wood used are obtained principally from outside sources, and three and one-half million dollars are annually sent out of the province for imported wood stock. The imported oak alone costs one million six hundred thousand dollars annually, for this tree has become commercially extinct in Ontario, while the hickory and chestnut groves of southern Ontario have also almost entirely disappeared.

Home-grown in Place of Foreign Species.

Even good, clear white pine is becoming hard to obtain, and its market value is steadily rising, for it represents twenty-one per cent. of the total wood consumption in Ontario for industrial purposes.

Of more interest to the small consumer of wood-products are the side lights the bulletin throws on the possibility of substituting cheap home-grown woods for the expensive foreign species now used so extensively. Recent tests made of their physical properties have demonstrated the suitability for certain purposes of many native species, hitherto despised by the dealers. For hardwood flooring, in place of the oak and maple now in general use, may be substituted the home-grown birch and beech, which take a high polish, and have the advantage of being considerably cheaper. Likewise, for interior finishing, the expensive oak can be very closely imitated by stained black ash, and stained birch is almost indistinguishable from mahogany, while stained red gum requires an expert to distinguish it from the costly Circassian walnut.

Ontario is Market for Apple Logs, etc.

The now expensive white pine is being replaced, where durability is not a requisite, by the cheaper spruce, basswood and elm. Poplar and balsam-fir are two of the most common trees in Ontario, and that they have wider uses is evident from the fact that poplar is highly valued for hardwood flooring in Manitoba, while balsam-fir is, perhaps, the most widely used native species in the Maritime provinces.

The bulletin also indicates the existence of a market in Ontario for sumac, apple and cherry logs, the lumber cut from them being worth \$30, \$46.50 and \$44.50 per thousand feet, board measure, respectively. The forestry branch has already been instrumental in securing sales of the wood of worn-out apple orchards, and is desirous of further serving the public along these lines. The bulletin can be obtained from the forestry branch, department of the interior, Ottawa. A similar report dealing with the Maritime Provinces will appear shortly.

AMENDMENT TO THE FRUIT MARKS ACT

The Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner has issued a circular giving the recent amendments to the Inspection and Sale Act with the new regulations. The amendments chiefly concern imported fruit.

Hereafter the words "Packed by" must precede the name and address of the packer as marked on any closed package of fruit intended for sale.

A new section is added empowering the Governor in Council to make regulations regarding the branding, marking, and inspecting of imported fruit. Persons violating such regulations are liable to a fine of not more than fifty dollars and costs or, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month. The packages of fruit not properly marked may be confiscated.

In virtue of this amendment new regulations have been passed and were published in the Canada Gazette of June 28th, 1913. According to these regulations every importer of fruit must have all grade marks found on closed packages containing imported fruit erased or obliterated when such marks are not in accordance with the Act or the new regulations. This must be done when the packages are being taken from the railway car, steamship or other conveyance in which they have been brought into Canada. The importer must place on the end of such packages the proper grade marks, the correct name of the variety of fruit, and his own name and address.