

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD

(Specially compiled for The Chronicle.)

SHUSWAP, B.C.—Home of James Ross, destroyed with contents. Loss very heavy.

REGINA, SASK.—Lodge rooms of Masonic Temple and Wilson Stationary Company's premises on ground floor damaged, February 8.

SUDBURY, ONT.—Fire which started in barber shop destroyed interior of City Drug Store. Building and stock covered by insurance.

MONTREAL.—Fire in three storey building 524 St. Catherine street east, spread to adjoining building 520, February 10. Various tenements damaged. Origin, smoke explosion.

KEMPTVILLE, ONT.—Insurance on Mundle & Percival's dry goods store, destroyed February 7, as follows:—North British, \$7,000; Liverpool & London & Globe, \$3,000; London & Lancashire, \$3,000; British America, \$3,000; Royal Exchange, \$3,000; Commercial Union, \$3,000. Total, \$22,000. Loss total.

GADSBY, ALTA.—On the 26th ult., a bad fire occurred at Gadsby, Alta. Insurance as follows:—Royal, \$7,100; Hudson Bay, \$3,050; Occidental, \$600; Impl. Underwriters, \$4,000; Norwich Union, \$3,500; Canadian, \$1,500; Liverpool & London & Globe, \$700. Total, \$20,450. Loss total.

FORT WILLIAM, ONT.—Block owned by W. J. Ross, corner of Victoria Avenue and Simpson Street, damaged, February 7. Tenants affected are Russell Bros., shoe store; H. Pelletier, barber shop, and Dr. McIntosh. Stocks in two stores said to be complete loss. Building and stocks insured. Origin, defective wiring.

BANF, ALTA.—In the fire which occurred on the 20th ult., at Banff, Alta., the following companies are interested: London Assurance, \$1,200; Rochester-German, \$2,500; partial loss. Delaware, \$1,500; Phoenix of London, \$1,000; Caledonian, \$1,000; Hudson Bay, \$2,000; Liverpool & London & Globe, \$3,500. Total loss.

MONCTON, N.B.—On the 2nd instant, the Aberdeen School, Moncton, N.B., was destroyed by fire. Insurance as follows:—

ON BUILDING.

General Fire	\$2,500	Union	\$2,500
Com. Union	5,000	Liv. & Lon. & Globe. .	2,000
Western	1,000	Sun	1,500
Atlas	2,000	Fidelity-Phoenix . . .	4,000
Fidelity	10,000	Atlas	3,000
Queen	4,000		

\$37,500

Total loss.

ON FURNITURE.

Queen	\$2,000	Fidelity-Phoenix . . .	\$1,000
Liv. & Lon. & Globe. .	1,000		

Total loss.

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONT.—In the fire which occurred on the 10th inst., in the Barrons Block, the following companies are interested:—

ON BUILDING.

Northern, \$5,000; Law Union, \$5,000; Palatine, \$5,000; British Crown, \$5,000. Total, \$20,000. Loss estimated, 80 p.c.

ON STOCK.

Acadia, \$3,000; North Empire, \$3,000; British Colonial, \$1,000; Law Union, \$1,000; and one other company. Estimated loss, 90 p.c.

ON VINEBERG STOCK.

Union, \$3,750; Northern, \$3,000; Liverpool & London & Globe, \$2,750; North America, \$2,500. Total, \$12,000. Loss about 75 p.c.

BARRIE, ONT.—In the fire which destroyed the Queen's Hotel, Barrie, Ont., February 10th, the following companies are interested:—

ON BUILDING.

Liverpool & London & Globe, \$3,000; Queen, \$2,000; Royal, \$7,000; New York Underwriters, \$2,000; Norwich Union, \$2,000; Phoenix of London, \$5,000; Caledonian, \$1,000. Total, \$22,000. Loss total.

ON STOCK.

Queen, \$5,000; Atlas, \$5,000. Loss total.

ON RENTALS.

Liverpool & London & Globe, \$1,000.

ELEMENTS OF A FIRE RATING SYSTEM.

The business of the rate-maker in fire insurance is to adjust so far as possible an insurer's income and outgo so as to leave a profit to the insurer for the trouble and risks involved in the transaction of the business. It is only fair and reasonable that risks should contribute to the income or premium in the same proportion as they are likely to contribute to expenses or outgo; that means that a separate rate should be estimated for each risk. To make the estimate intelligently is the business of the rate-maker.

What are the elements contributing to outgo connected with the fire insurance business. They were set out as follows in a recent paper read to a fire underwriters' association on the Pacific Coast, beginning with the most general and ending with the particular, as follows:

1. Cost of conducting the business and profits.
2. Conflagration reserve.
3. Climate and physical geography.
4. Taxation, licenses and fees.
5. Municipal or community protection.
6. Degrees of combustibility and damageability (construction).
7. Occupancy hazards.
8. Deficiencies and faults of management.
9. Exposures.
10. Private protection.
11. Term of policy.

These elements may be split up into a variety of phases, particularly the portion dealing with combustibility, including construction. The tariff maker must decide what amount of detail will best carry out the aims of the system in the hands of those who use it—lest it be too cumbersome on the one hand, or too meagre on the other. But each of the eleven elements must be included, or else a time of testing will come when the omission will appear in glaring prominence. Fire rate-making is indeed no business for the amateur or the half-educated politician with an axe to grind. It requires a degree of technical knowledge and a width of experience that can be obtained only by a close study of the problems involved, and active daily contact with the business over a prolonged period.