

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD.

(Specially compiled for *The Chronicle*.)

PORT HOPE, ONT.—Royal Hotel stables destroyed, September 14. Loss \$1,000; insurance \$700.

LINDSAY, ONT.—Grand Trunk station partly destroyed, September 14. Origin, spark from locomotive.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—W. Wright's general store at Greenbush destroyed, September 11. Origin, overheated stove pipe.

RIGAUD, QUE.—Plant of Curtis & Harvey, Ltd., destroyed, September 5. Loss \$2,500. Origin, explosion caused by fire.

DEEP BROOK, N.S.—Colonial Arms hotel destroyed, September 2. Loss \$50,000. Insurance \$38,000. Origin, unknown.

MONTREAL.—John Strachan's stable, 1122a Parthenais Street, destroyed with seven horses and other contents, September 8.

LONDON, ONT.—Barn at Glendale destroyed, September 14. Loss \$7,000. Origin, spark from traction engine. One death.

CHILLIWACK, B.C.—Fashion livery, blacksmith shop and cabinet shop destroyed, August 30. Loss \$20,000; insurance about half. Origin, unknown.

WOODSTOCK, N.B.—Fire in a building on Main street, owned by the Macdonald estate, caused \$2,800 damages, September 12. Partly insured.

WINNIPEG.—Building on Main Street south, used as armoury and recreation room by 90th Regiment damaged, September 13. Loss about \$200.

MELVILLE, SASK.—Building containing office of Melville *Times* and Sear's photographic gallery damaged, newspaper office mainly by water, September 14.

WINNIPEG.—Premises of Manitoba Photograph Supply Company, 336 South Street, damaged, September 14. Insurance \$12,000 with Williams Rainer Agency.

IMPERIAL, SASK.—Shea & Staber's livery barn with 15 horses destroyed, September 6. Both uninsured. Part of stock of Monarch Lumber Company adjoining also destroyed. Insured.

MIDALE, SASK.—Fire which started in hardware store, September 9, destroyed following premises:—Midale Hardware Company, loss \$27,000, insurance \$17,000; J. M. Picuinpaugh, loss \$3,000; insured for \$1,950; J. V. Flury, loss \$14,000, insured for \$7,000; J. M. Mozer, loss \$1,500; insured for \$1,000; H. E. Koch, loss \$1,000, insured for \$4,200; Dr. Mainprice, loss \$50; insured for \$400; Wedin & Co. loss \$1,000; insured for \$400. Total losses amount to about \$50,000, of which about \$32,000 is covered by insurance. Origin, unknown.

The plate glass situation in New York city is said to be gradually increasing the apprehension felt by local underwriters. Many more cases of excess commissions have been bared than was formally admitted. One method of deception in common use is the appointment of an "agent" in order to avoid the twenty-five per cent. brokerage rule. Specific complaints have become so numerous that a feeling of distrust and dissatisfaction is rampant, and managers of companies which lose a volume of business immediately lay it to irregular operations of other companies.

AGAINST TOO MUCH MUNICIPAL OPTIMISM.

The great problem of urban municipalities during the past year in many cases has been that of financing the business of the municipality, states Mr. J. Perrie, Alberta's deputy minister of municipal affairs, in his annual report.

As a municipality is, of course, a spending organization, the financial question is always one of its big questions, but during the past year on account of the general financial depression, rather more difficulty has been experienced in meeting obligations than for some time past.

The danger which our municipalities must guard against in connection with this is the danger of their going too far in incurring liabilities to provide for the future of the municipality before such future is firmly established. In a new country such as ours, it is difficult to estimate what the future of a town will be, and it is wise for a municipality to go slow in contracting liabilities until conditions have become so settled that it can be fairly accurately estimated what the future of the town is likely to be.

OVERESTIMATING GROWTH.

If because of the opinion that there is a great future in store for a town, large indebtedness is incurred, and then the expected growth does not follow, the result is that the ratepayers of the municipality will have to assume much too large an indebtedness in proportion to the population and the business carried on, resulting in a bad condition of affairs all round, and the town is likely to lose the future growth which it might otherwise have had if financing had been carried out more carefully.

As well as the loss frequently caused by overestimating future growth, there is also very often a danger of loss through towns issuing debentures to go into municipal ventures that are of a speculative character. Another feature of poor financing to be guarded against is that of issuing debentures for long terms to cover improvements that will have disappeared long before the debenture has been paid.

PROHIBITION OF BONUSES.

Sometimes in the past municipalities have also got into debt through a desire to bonus some industry that they thought would be of great assistance to the municipality. This system of bonusing industry has, however, so frequently proved to be a detriment to the best interests of the municipality and has resulted in giving the municipality a load to carry without any benefit, that the legislature has seen fit by provisions in the Rural Municipality Act, Village Act, Town Act and all the different city charters, to prohibit any municipality from granting a bonus of any kind to any industry. This may seem like rather arbitrary action, but the results will be in the best interests of the municipalities.

R. B. Burland, formerly manager of the Home Bank of Canada branch at Neepawa, Man., has been appointed manager of the office of the Home Bank recently opened in Calgary. V. F. Chalmers, formerly manager at Grandview, Man., takes charge of the Neepawa branch. H. C. Wilson, formerly manager at Welwyn, Sask., takes charge of the Grandview branch, and J. B. Lorimer, from the Winnipeg office, goes as manager at Welwyn, Sask.