

FIRE AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION MEASURES

Fire Prevention Day Now Observed in Nearly Every Province
— Ontario Safety League Holds "Safety Week"

SATURDAY, Oct. 9, was observed as fire prevention day in Canada, and the present week, ending October 16, has been proclaimed a "Safety Week" by the Ontario Safety League. A proclamation issued by the governor-general in connection with the observance of fire prevention day recites that during the past decade in Canada more than 2,600 persons have lost their lives, and property valued at approximately \$200,000,000 has been destroyed by fire, and that the annual loss from this source continues practically unabated. Many millions of dollars' worth of standing timber are also destroyed annually, and new growth is injured. This loss is absolute. Seventy-five per cent. of the fires are preventable, and care should be taken to prevent them. The following measures were suggested:—

"1. All dwellings and their surroundings be carefully inspected by their occupants and all conditions likely to cause or promote the spread of fires removed.

"2. All public buildings, stores, warehouses and factories be inspected and cleared of rubbish in order to reduce fire hazards and maintain health and safety.

"3. All hotels, theatres, asylums, hospitals and other institutional buildings be inspected and provision made for all changes necessary to protect the occupants from danger in the event of fire.

"4. Fire drills be held for the children in all schools, for the inmates of all institutions and for the employees in all large stores and factories in order that a greater degree of safety may be ensured by acquainting the occupants with the best and most expeditious mode of exit in time of danger.

"5. Special instruction on the subject of fire prevention be given by the teachers and by municipal officials in the schools and that such appropriate literature as may be made available be distributed to the pupils.

"6. Boy Scout leaders give instructions to the troops under their control as to the best means of co-operating with municipal fire departments in the prevention and extinguishment of fires, and especially as to the desirability of qualifying for the Fireman's badge.

"7. Operators of lumber camps, settlers, campers, hunters, and others who may from time to time enter our national parks and forest areas, acquaint themselves with all laws, regulations and precautionary rules devised and established for the safeguarding of the woods against fire.

"8. All legislation and regulations enacted or issued by Dominion, provincial or municipal authorities dealing with fire prevention be given publicity by the municipal officials and that by public meetings or otherwise as may to them seem most fit, they endeavor to impress upon the citizens the national importance of safeguarding life and property from loss by fire."

Ontario, as usual, made a vigorous effort to improve conditions, and a large amount of literature was distributed, and arrangements made, through the Ontario Fire Prevention League, for removal of fire hazards. Nearly every other province made a similar effort.

Prevention Week in Manitoba

Manitoba observed the whole week, commencing October 4, as fire prevention week, and suggested the following program:—Appointment of a fire prevention committee in each city, town and municipality, to take charge of the work; proclamation by mayors of cities and towns, and reeve of each municipality, and setting forth a general clean-up day; showing of suitable fire prevention phrases in moving picture theatres; self-inspection of every home and farm to prevent fire; inspection of business premises by owners and occupants with the view of removing and properly disposing of useless inflammable rubbish and waste, and immediately arranging for the correction of fire hazards; brief talks by employers to employees on fire prevention; fire drill in schools, factories and other establishments; reading of governor-general's proclama-

tion in schools and colleges; brief lessons on fire prevention in schools; enrolling of boy scouts as fire preventionists; fire department inspection; fire prevention by fire insurance interests; special inspection of livery barns and stables by Winnipeg Humane Society; fire prevention committees to be made permanent for fire prevention work.

Model By-Law in Quebec

Outlining the work in the Province of Quebec, P. J. Jobin, provincial fire commissioner, says: "This office has forwarded the Governor-General's proclamation to all the city, town, village and parish municipalities. Leading articles for newspapers were written and published. So much for the 9th of October. During the other 364 days of the year we are busily recommending to the aforementioned municipalities the adoption and enforcement of fire prevention by-laws. We are also helping where necessary with advice and financial assistance to those municipalities that require efficient and satisfactory fire protection appliances." The province has drafted and distributed model fire prevention by-laws in French and English.

The Alberta fire commissioner's office distributed reading notices to the principal papers of the province. Copies of the governor-general's proclamation were also forwarded, as posters, to the secretary-treasurers of towns, with a request for their co-operation in arranging to assemble the school children and invite someone, such as the fire chief, to give a talk on fire prevention-day and its causes. This year a very extensive campaign is being conducted through the medium of the schools, moving picture theatres, press and private mailing lists of large companies, to place before the public some truths in regard to methods of fire prevention.

THE GOLD SITUATION

Discussing the currency problem in Canada, the August issue of the Sterling Bank "Teller" says:—

"The road to sound currency is the straight and narrow path of strict observance of contracts. As a nation, we must make good on our pledges. It would, of course, be comparatively simple to announce a return to redemption in gold on demand, but under present conditions difficulty would arise in maintaining such redemption. If exportation of gold were free, shipments in payment of our cash obligations abroad would quickly deplete this country's stocks of the yellow metal. On the other hand, it is questionable in how far any effective restraint could be maintained on the exportation of gold, if gold were available within this country in exchange for Dominion notes. Hoarding probably would have to be expected; smuggling of gold out of the country could not well be avoided. Moreover, there would be no value in restoring demand redemption of our currency in gold unless the recipients were allowed to use such gold freely in international commerce. The situation would be serious if exportation of gold were permitted freely and if the yellow metal were obtainable on demand in redemption of our paper currency. Indeed, our entire gold holdings would be gone in a year's time.

"In December, 1913, Canada's visible gold stock—i.e., holdings by the government and the banks, amounted to about \$142,000,000. At the end of 1919, it was higher by \$50,000,000. With a population of less than ten millions, or about one-half of one per cent. of the population of the world, the Dominion holds approximately 2 per cent. of the world's gold. Moreover, gold mining in this country would augment our holdings of the precious metal by \$15,000,000 annually if the leak resulting from the unfavorable condition of our international cash account could be stopped. We have our fair share of gold, probably, if we can hold it and pay our obligations abroad with other goods.

"The real problem is so to order our trade relations that undue drainage of gold will not take place and to make sure that in our foreign relations we do not have aggregate cash obligations exceeding current cash receipts."