

FIRE PROTECTION

(Canada's Fire Waste in Two Years — \$42,000,000)

BURNING RUBBISH HEAPS.

Several convictions have recently been made in Victoria, B.C., for lighting fires for the purpose of disposing of rubbish heaps. The following is the civic by-law in regard to this matter. "No person shall kindle or cause to be kindled or used any fire upon any street or highway, or anywhere in the open air in the city of Victoria without a permit to do so, signed by the fire marshal or other officer in charge of the fire department. This section shall not include fire in furnaces necessarily used in laying roofs or pavements, nor the fires used in the furnaces of engines necessarily used in blasting and hoisting, nor to the fires in the open air upon private property necessarily used in setting tires upon the wheels of vehicles or in heating tar or pitch, but no such fires shall be allowed within the fire limits unless all reasonable safeguards are provided."

PROTECTION OF SUMMER RESORTS.

The necessity for providing fire protection for the summer resorts along the northern shore of Lake St. Louis from Dorval to Pointe Claire, Montreal, and above, was the subject of discussion at a meeting of the residents of the district called by Mayor McBride of Pointe Claire at the Chateau St. Louis, Valois. Mr. McBride suggested that the residents of the lake-shore contribute to the purchase of \$1,500 fire engine, or purchase a \$6,000 motor-driven chemical engine of the type likely to be purchased by the city of Westmount. The first would cost about \$35 a year in interest, and the second about \$350. He considered that the expenditure would be justified by the safety obtained. With the steam fire engine, the horses now owned by Pointe Claire might be used or the engine might be hauled by a motor car. Although more expensive, the motor-driven chemical fire engine would be the more suitable fire-fighting apparatus for the lake-shore, it would be able to reach any point in its district within three minutes and carry with it eighty gallons of chemical, several hundred feet of hose and a dozen men. With such a piece of apparatus no fire would be able to get outside the house or perhaps the room in which it started. The district needs a water supply.

MUST HAVE FIREPROOF MATERIALS.

An important by-law has been adopted by the Montreal city council by which such buildings as theatres, orphanages, schools with dormitories, hotels, asylums, hospitals and departmental stores must in future be constructed of fireproof materials. The present building by-law was accordingly amended to the following effect:—

"Sec. 1.—Paragraph (j) of sec. 97 of by-law No. 260, as added by sec. 8 of by-law No. 337, is repealed, and the following substituted therefor:

"(j.) All theatres, orphanages, boarding schools, schools having more than one storey above the basement, schools with dormitories, hotels, asylums, houses of refuge, hospitals, departmental stores, apartment houses containing more than seven lodgings, apartment houses having more than three storeys above the basement, and all buildings over sixty feet high and having more than four storeys above the basement, hereafter erected or altered, shall be built or altered with fireproof materials, as provided in sec. 97 of said by-law No. 260."

"Sec. 2.—This by-law shall be considered as forming part of said by-law No. 260, which it amends, as to guards the penal clause and to all other intents and purposes."

As a concession to those who have already started building, a clause was added permitting the building inspector to allow the erection of special brick buildings of mill construction to a greater height than 60 feet, in any case where the contracts have been let at least thirty days before the passing of this by-law.

CARE WITH ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

A wiring expert of the Ottawa municipal electrical department has given a timely warning to householders in connection with the tendency to meddle with lights and fuses. A large number of fires put down to defective wiring, he says, are simply due to the insertion, by the residents of houses themselves, of any metallic substance such as a piece of copper wire or even a hairpin, so as to prevent the fuse from blowing out. People who have had their fuse blow out and cut off their lights one or two times, do this to avoid a further inconvenience. They court danger and death. A fuse is inserted in every house's lighting system, so as to give entry to enough electricity to supply all the lights in that house and not enough to fuse the wires inside and start a fire. If lightning strikes the wires outside the house or if something goes wrong with a transformer the fuse simply blows out and thus protects the house wires.

Some people do not seem to think anything under about 400 volts is dangerous whereas in reality if one were standing on damp ground or otherwise non-insulated, less than 200 volts might readily result in death. The great thing is to have one's wiring done by a competent person and then not to meddle with it.

In about 90 per cent. of the cases where persons are shocked, their lives might be saved if artificial respiration as in drowning were started immediately after the accident occurs. The shock stops the heart and the thing to do is to get it started again by forcing the air into the lungs.

FIRE WASTE.

The chief officer of the London, England, fire brigade has submitted to the fire brigade committee of the London County Council figures of the rough estimates of the monetary losses caused by fires in London from 1898 to 1911. These estimates do not extend to the expenses incurred by insurance companies and others arising out of claims for damage resulting from fires nor do they take account of any consequential losses which owners of property may sustain. In 1910 the losses were estimated as follows:—Not exceeding £50 each fire, £15,125; not exceeding £100, £8,905; not exceeding £500, £43,600; not exceeding £1,000, £27,420; not exceeding £6,000, £128,100; losses estimated to exceed £3,000, £378,950; total for the year, £602,100.

The totals from 1898 onwards are as follows:—1898, £569,445; 1899, £464,228; 1900, £515,349; 1901, £656,854; 1902, £812,040; 1903, £400,874; 1904, £394,425; 1905, £449,191; 1906, £521,056; 1907, £493,389; 1908, £446,853; 1909, £699,329.

The total estimated loss for the 13 years amounts to £7,025,433. This is equal to approximately \$35,000,000. The fire losses in Canada for the two years, 1909, and 1910, were \$42,000,000, and for this year to date, \$14,000,000.

Fire losses in the United States and Canada during the first half of this year were almost \$30,000,000 in excess of the losses for the same period in 1910, and nearly equalled those of the first half of 1909, the amounts for the three years being respectively, \$103,802,000, \$99,228,960 and \$129,691,750. Forest fires, raging throughout the Northwest, attacked exposed villages and detached buildings.

A list of factories in Montreal which are alleged to lack proper fire protection has been submitted to the civic board of control. Fire Chief Tremblay and Building Inspector Chausse will report on the matter.

STOP!

Canada's fire waste from January 1st to July 31st, 1911, was \$14,461,825. In other words, we have thrown away forty dollars every minute since New Year's Day. Stop the fire waste.