

# SHINGLE ROOFS AND THEIR ABOLITION.

Commenting on the excessive losses in North Carolina due to sparks on shingle roofs, Insurance Commissioner Young says: "A most important lesson in this state is the great importance of abolishing shingle roofs in favour of fireproof and fire-resisting roofing materials, which has come to be nearly or quite as cheap in first cost as the more dangerous shingle roof. And then the fire-resisting roof lasts longer and reduces the insurance rates on the buildings that have these fire-resisting covers." He further regards it as especially important that those planning to build should include the fireproof roof, and that the serious menace which now exists of the shingle roof should be removed from buildings that now have them as quickly as possible. According to figures recently worked out, the losses incurred through sparks on roofs in the United States for 1916 amounted to \$7,355,147.

While no statistics are available for losses incurred in Canada for 1917 from the same cause, the prevalent use of shingle roofs in many sections of this country are a serious menace to property and those interested in fire insurance. In the interests of those most concerned, an effectual agitation for the complete abolition of wood shingle roofs would be a step in the right direction.

## CANADIAN FIRE RECORD.

(Compiled by The Chronicle).

**Fire at Toronto.**—On the 9th instant a fire destroyed the Royal Canadian Yacht Club. Centre Island, Toronto. Insurance as follows:—

|                             |                      |           |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Phoenix, London .. \$ 5,000 | Northern .....       | 7,000     |
| Norwich Union .. 5,000      | Firemen's Fund ..    | 2,500     |
| British America .. 5,000    | Yorkshire .....      | 7,000     |
| Atlas .....                 | Union Assce. Soc'y.. | 5,000     |
| Aetna .....                 | Palatine .....       | 5,000     |
| North West .....            | Royal .....          | 11,000    |
| British & Canadian..        | Commercial Union ..  | 8,000     |
| Provid.-Washington ..       | Guardian .....       | 8,000     |
| Scottish Union .....        | National Union ..... | 2,500     |
| Liverpool & L. & G. ..      | Nova Scotia .....    | 2,500     |
| Alliance (Eng.) ....        |                      |           |
| Sun .....                   | Total .....          | \$130,000 |
| London Assurance .. 3,500   | Loss about total.    |           |

**Fire at Quebec.**—On the 11th instant a fire broke out in the wholesale stores of the Louis Beaubien Company, St. Valier St., Quebec, (boots and shoes) the following list of insurance is available, on stock: Globe & Rutgers, \$5,000; Royal Exchange, \$4,500; General of Perth, \$5,000; Royal, \$8,000; British Empire, \$3,500; Nova Scotia, \$7,500; Occidental, \$9,000; General, \$5,000. Total \$47,500. Loss about 50 p.c. On Batisse in same building: Nova Scotia, \$5,000; Royal, \$7,000; Royal Exchange, \$6,000. Total, \$18,000. Loss about \$5,000. On Canadian Consolidated Rubber Co.: Nova Scotia, \$12,500; Occidental, \$6,500; Royal, \$5,000. Total \$31,500. Loss about 30 p.c.

**Fire at Winnipeg.**—On the 14th instant a fire broke out on the premises of Richardson & Bishop (stationery), Main St., Winnipeg. The building is owned by the Canada Life. Loss about \$90,000.

**Fire at St. Catharines, Ont.**—On the 8th inst. a fire destroyed the Bishop Ridley College Skating Rink. Loss about \$10,000. Insurance \$5,000.

**Fire at Vancouver, B.C.**—On the 15th instant a disastrous fire broke out in the shipbuilding plant of J. Coughlan & Sons. The fire started in the boiler room and gained great headway when the acetylene plant used for welding exploded. The company employed 2,800 hands. About half this number are now out of work. The property, we understand, was well insured, and the loss will probably amount to about \$500,000.

**Fire at Loughheed, Alta.**—On the 5th instant a fire destroyed the Grand View Hotel, a drug store, and a restaurant. Loss about \$15,000.

**Fire at Steveston, B.C.**—A serious fire occurred on the 14th instant on the premises of the Star Canning Company, Steveston, B.C., the fire spread and destroyed several buildings. It is expected that loss will be very large. Insurance not known, as we go to press.

**Fire at Quebec.**—On the 11th instant a fire destroyed the main plant of the Victoriaville Foundry, Quebec. Loss about \$12,000.

**Fire at Hamilton.**—On the 10th instant as the result through failure of the airbrakes operating a Chicago-Montreal freight train of fifty cars on the G. T. R. ran away and crashed into the train of 22 cars of a London-Toronto freight train, fire broke out and destroyed 16 cars of valuable freight.

## APRIL FIRE LOSSES.

The losses by fire in the United States and Canada during the month of April as compiled from the record of the Journal of Commerce, New York, reach a total of \$20,108,900 as compared with \$20,213,980 reported for March. April losses this year were somewhat heavier than a year ago, when the figures were \$18,597,225 and considerably larger than in April, 1916, when the total was \$12,681,050. The fire losses for the first four months of 1918 reach an aggregate of \$98,586,135, as compared with \$102,139,655 for the same months of last year and \$97,555,420 in 1916.

There were during April this year 201 fires each causing an estimated property damage of \$10,000 or over and since January 1st this year 1,248 such fires.

## SIXTEEN ARRESTS FOR ARSON.

The city fire marshal, Detroit, states that no less than ninety fires of incendiary origin have taken place in Detroit since January 1st, 1918. Two arrests for arson were made in that city on the 13th instant, making a total of sixteen which it is stated practically completed the round up of the leaders of a state-wide arson ring, believed to have caused fires which resulted in many hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property. According to the police, seven men have confessed, and it is stated the ring took contracts for starting fires under a system of competitive bids. To encourage the conviction of those guilty of arson in Canada some sixty years ago, the Government offered a reward of \$5,000 to any person giving such information as would lead to the conviction of the guilty party. According to old files in The Chronicle library, arson was considered a capital offence.