

BRITISH FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE.

In announcing the opening of its 1899-1900 session, the British Fire Prevention Committee says:

The British Fire Prevention Committee, under whose auspices these tests are conducted, was founded after the Cripplegate fire of November, 1897, and was fully incorporated early this year. It counts a membership of some five hundred architects, surveyors, engineers, municipal officers and others directly or indirectly interested in fire prevention, among whom are practically all the leading members of the professions named.

Three of the primary objects of the Committee are defined as follows:—

To direct attention to the urgent need for increased protection of life and property from fire by the adoption of preventive measures.

To use its influence in every direction towards minimizing the possibilities and dangers of fire.

To undertake such independent investigations and tests of materials, methods and appliances as may be considered advisable.

It is with the idea of meeting these objects that a testing station has been established.

The purpose of the tests is to obtain reliable data as to the exact fire resistance of the various materials, systems of construction, or appliances used in building practice. Such data have not as yet been available, owing to the fact that nearly all investigations of this description have been carried out by individual makers or inventors with specific commercial objects in view. The few independent tests made in the United States have so far only been of minor importance. The present tests will be of an entirely independent character, arranged on scientific lines, but with full consideration for the practical purpose in view. Absolute reliability will be assured, records being mostly taken automatically, or by photography, and the temperatures being easily regulated by the application of gas. All reports on tests solely state the bare facts and occurrences, with tables, diagrams and illustrations, and on no account will reports include expressions of opinion or any expressions that might be read as comparisons or criticisms.

The actual tests are attended by the members of the Council and the members of the Committee in rotation, care being taken that the attendance is always thoroughly representative of the technical professions primarily interested in the specific object under investigation. As to the testing station, it comprises two houses standing in their own grounds near Regent's Park, and backing on to the Regent's Canal. The principal building is used for committee rooms and laboratory purposes, whilst the gardens are utilized for the principal so-called "full-size" tests. These are generally carried on in brick chambers specially erected for the purpose. The fuel primarily takes the form of gas, and the principal recording instruments are electrical pyrometers with photographic records, the ordinary photograph camera and the smelting

globule. As to the financial aspect of the station, the establishment expenses have been met by a special subscription which will also cover the expenses of conducting tests of general technical interest. Tests with patented materials, makers' systems, etc., etc., are, however, subject to a scale of charges, but these charges are so figured as to only just cover the actual cost. The services of the members conducting or attending tests are given gratuitously. In the first six months' work at the testing station no less than 27 official tests were undertaken, and the results were embodied in 20 reports. Of these 27 tests there were 5 with floors, 2 with ceilings, 4 with partitions, 7 with doors, 8 with glazing and 1 with treated wood.

**FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA FOR OCTOBER, 1899.
(ESTIMATED).**

DATE.	LOCATION.	DESCRIPTION.	GROSS LOSS.	INSURANCE LOSS.
1	Brantford	Farm Property..	\$1,500	
2	Pontypool	Dwelling	750	\$500
3	Beamsville	School	5,000	3,000
3	Quebec	Store	2,000	2,000
3	Montreal	Carpenter's Shop	1,000	700
3	Sunderland	Farm Property..	2,000	1,000
4	Hastings	Farm Property..	1,000	250
4	Tp. Brock	Outbuildings...	2,000	1,200
4	Woodstock	Livery Stable...	1,000	600
4	New Westminster	Convent	20,000	13,000
6	Sussex, N.B.	Conflagration...	50,000	30,000
8	St. Charles	Store & D'ling	3,000	2,000
10	Colborne	Dwelling	2,000	1,500
11	Toronto	Stables	2,500	2,500
11	Winnipeg	Outbuilding	800	
12	Biddulph	Farm Property..	2,500	500
13	St. Catharines...	Stables	3,000	
16	Ridgetown	Conflagration...	60,000	42,000
19	Winnipeg	Planing Mill...	15,000	6,000
		Storehouse	11,000	11,000
19	Valleyfield	Hotel	20,000	14,000
20	Memphremagog.	Store	9,000	9,000
25	Brantford	Bridge	75,000	5,000
27	Three Rivers...	Evaporating		
28	Leamington	Factory	1,500	
29	Woodstock	Dwelling	2,500	2,000
30	Port Dalhousie..	Stores & D'lings	7,500	5,000
31	Kingston	Store	6,000	4,000
31	Montreal	Hotel	25,000	19,000
			\$332,550	\$175,750

Add 20 per cent. for unreported losses

and losses under \$1,000..... \$66,510 \$3⁰⁰,15

Totals..... \$399,060 \$210,900

**SUMMARY FOR CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1899 COMPARED
WITH 1898.**

	1899.		1898.	
	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.	Total Loss.	Ins. Loss.
For January..	\$1,221,240	\$ 622,080	\$ 434,280	302,160
" February..	1,120,920	625,560	960,240	531,360
" March....	347,040	222,440	558,000	392,760
" April.....	418,320	356,760	411,960	265,080
" May	990,240	578,160	340,440	201,720
" June	427,080	287,120	451,480	243,240
" July	569,400	364,480	460,920	314,280
" August ..	282,840	190,800	578,400	315,960
" September	627,730	476,160	3,377,160	1,354,480
" October..	399,060	210,900	615,000	293,160
Totals....	\$7,257,870	\$3,734,480	\$8,087,880	\$4,114,200