

FIRE CHIEFS' REPORTS

From Hamilton, Winnipeg, London, Montreal, Vancouver, Lethbridge and Calgary Give Interesting Figures of Fire Losses and Insurance.

The fire loss for the City of Hamilton during 1909 was almost \$1,540 more than that of previous year, the total being \$99,298. The insurance on property damaged amounted to \$1,984,415. Nearly two-thirds of the total damage was caused by four fires, these reaching \$63,026, while the remaining \$36,272 represented the loss by 117 fires. Of the 295 alarms rung in during the year, 181 were day alarms and 114 night. The above figures are taken from the excellent report of Chief TenEyck.

Many Fires in Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg fire division had a strenuous year, there being no less than 332 fires that required the laying of hose, while the total number of calls were 842 and alarms 510. For actual fires, the month of November is highest with a total of 35, while May and July come next with a total of 34 each. March and September tied for the month with the smallest number of actual fires, each having a total of 16, which is less than half that of the highest month. January comes first on the list for the number of alarms rung in while it also takes the lead for the number of calls in a single month, the month of December is a close second to January under both these headings. June and July share the honors for the lowest totals for alarms and calls received.

Large Percentage of False Alarms.

A serious feature in the statistics of the London, Ont., fire alarms is the large percentage of false alarms during 1909. Of 185 alarms, 26 were false, this representing about 15 per cent. of the total which was 50 more than that of 1908 and comprised 140 fires, 17 chimneys, 26 false alarms and 2 test runs. The total loss to buildings during the year amounted to \$67,530. Added to this is \$63,425 for damage on contents of buildings, thus making a sum of \$130,955. The insurance on buildings where fire was discovered amounted to \$445,400 and on contents of buildings \$505,260, making insurance of \$950,660. One hundred and fifteen of the alarms were sent in over the telephone; forty-five came through the boxes; nineteen were verbal and six were private alarms. Chief Aitken stated that although there had been many runs and some serious fires, the report was satisfactory.

Three Firemen Killed in Montreal.

From the report of Fire Chief Tremblay, of Montreal, it is seen that the number of calls received by them during 1909 was 1,200 representing a loss of \$450,000. Three firemen were killed in the performance of their duty, a number were more or less seriously injured during the latter three months of the year. The number of fires was 1,052, which is one less than those of the previous year, while the number of alarms received was 1,763, this being 147 over that of 1908. The number of streams used by the brigade during the year

was 1,008, while 1,190 hand extinguishers were in use during the same period. No. 2 Salvage wagon had 558 alarms during 1909; used 899 covers; 57 hand extinguishers and 3 streams. No. 4 wagon received 368 calls and used 735 covers, and 86 hand extinguishers, while No. 5 wagon, which was only in commission for the last four months of the year, received 138 alarms and used 345 covers, 12 hand extinguishers and 1 stream.

Recommendations for Vancouver.

Three hundred and fifteen thousand dollars represents the fire loss of Vancouver, B.C., for the year 1909, and the insurance \$255,000, leaving a loss over insurance paid of \$60,000. This does not look very encouraging when compared with the reports of several other towns of the Eastern provinces, which all show a large percentage of insurance over the actual loss sustained. The total loss exceeds that of 1908 by \$45,000, which is natural when one considers the rapid growth of the town. The total alarms responded to during the year were 350, or 80 over the 1908 total, which was a record. Chief Carlisle makes strong mention of the number of times the brigade is called out to fires caused by defective flues or chimneys or other defective construction of buildings and suggests that the building inspector be given assistants to enable him to inspect thoroughly all new buildings. He also wants a man specially for the office of fire warden, this position being at present filled by a sergeant of the police force. The chief's recommendations for the year are: One fireboat, one auto truck, two auto hose wagons, two auto chemicals, two new firehalls, the new buildings to replace present structures, and an auto for himself and the assistant chief.

Eight Months Record at Lethbridge.

The total loss by fire for Lethbridge, Alta., for eight months ended December 1909 was \$13,855, while the insurance paid amounted to \$10,755, leaving a net loss over insurance of \$3,100. During the eight months the brigade responded to 24 alarms, the average damage per alarm being about \$577.

One Fire Accounts for 75 Per Cent. of Total.

During the past year the Calgary fire brigade responded to 125 alarms, of which only two were false, while no less than sixteen were caused by hot ashes. The month of December was the heaviest for the number of calls, the brigade turning out on fifteen occasions. In the year 1905 the number of alarms was forty-four, the risks were \$326,543, the insurance \$108,550, and the losses \$10,609, while for the year 1909 the number of alarms was 125, the risks \$1,237,190, the insurance \$791,470 and the losses \$82,340. The year's total loss was greatly augmented by an elevator fire which occasioned a loss of \$62,000, which is equal to about 75 per cent. of the total loss.

During the year 1898 the total alarms amounted to six, which is the smallest total for any year since 1894. For the sixteen years from that date till 1909, the total alarms responded to amounted to 593. The following is a record of the fires for 1909 as regards damage and insurance:—

Month	VALUE OF RISK		INSURANCE		LOSSES		
	Buildings	Contents	Buildings	Contents	Buildings	Contents	
January	\$189,200	\$69,725	\$136,200	\$71,000	\$35,587	\$33,770	
February	68,200	54,600	27,850	20,000	10	105	
March	50,600	35,245	32,300	26,400	125	200	
April	45,350	25,700	37,000	7,070	1,152	1,200	
May	3,000	1,545	41,300	26,000	285	2,620	
June	56,200	43,350			220	25	
July	750	250	1,000	200	210	27	
August	44,900	30,800	26,400	3,500	465	565	
September	25,000	13,400	7,400	6,450	1,020	800	
October	82,800	34,475	67,750	18,300	1,433	960	
November	155,100	88,700	106,800	53,900	40	80	
December	73,700	44,500	45,750	28,900	690	764	
Total	\$794,800	\$442,390	\$529,750	\$261,720	\$41,237	\$41,112	
Total risk							\$1,237,190
Total insurance							791,470
Total loss							82,340

The above interesting and concise table speaks well for the efficiency of the Calgary fire division under Chief Smart.

CANADA'S DECEMBER FIRE LOSS.

The total fire loss in Canada for December, 1909, was \$1,433,813, and of this \$1,117,100 represents the loss incurred by fires of \$10,000 or over. The following are the particulars of the large fires only, all other information regarding fires in 1909 appearing in our issue of January 8th.

Sedgewick, Alta.—Imperial elevator	\$ 20,000
Wapella, Sask.—New brick block	20,000
Oxford, N.S.—Seven stores	40,000
Huntingdon, Que.—Central hotel	15,000
Essex, Ont.—Taylor's grist mill	50,000
Winnipeg, Man.—Agricultural College	40,000
" " —Sterling building	177,000
Halifax, N.S.—Ferry steamer "Halifax"	25,000
Prince Rupert, B.C.—Light plant sawmill	60,000

Prince Rupert, B.C.—Eighteen residences	20,000
Toronto, Ont.—Seven stores	141,000
Quebec, Ont.—Building of W. H. Norrish	10,700
Sudbury, Ont.—Office block	89,200
Montreal, Que.—Hat works and foundry	50,000
Halifax, N.S.—Three stores	15,000
Winnipeg, Man.—Mitchell building	50,000
Altona, Man.—Stores, shops, and bank	20,000
Thessalon, Ont.—Sandie block	100,000
Essex, Ont.—Business block	50,000
Montreal, Que.—Clothing store	20,000
Windsor, Ont.—Dry goods store	15,000
Niagara Falls, Ont.—20,000 bushels of grain, etc.	55,000
Bass River, N.S.—Warehouses and factory	25,000

\$1,117,100