

## CANADIAN FIRE RECORD

*Specially compiled by The Chronicle.*

### EXPLOSION AT DRAGON, P.Q.

On the 18th instant, the Curtis & Harvey Explosives plant at Dragon, P.Q., was destroyed by a long series of explosions, causing the death of Mr. Gordon Shortrede (foreman) and injuring six employees. It is stated that 250 men were in the works when the first explosion took place. The accident is said to have been due to a chemical reaction and not to any neglect or defect of any kind.

We understand the monetary loss is over \$1,000,000. We append a list of insurance companies interested, with amounts on the plant:—

London Guarantee & Accident, \$35,000; Canadian, \$15,000; Niagara Fire, \$10,000; Employers' Liability, \$10,000; Lloyds London, \$70,000; Excess, \$15,000; Northwestern, \$10,000; London Mutual, \$10,000; Dominion Fire, \$10,000; National F. & M., \$3,500; Lloyds London, \$30,000; English & Foreign, \$5,000; National Benefit, \$5,000; Pacific Coast, \$10,000; Motor Union, \$25,000; Sterling Fire, \$2,500; Norwich Union, \$25,000; Atlas, \$7,500; British Colonial, \$15,000; Guardian, \$75,000; Lloyds London, \$152,500; North British & Mercantile, \$35,000; Northern, \$35,000; Guardian, \$25,000; Western, \$15,000; Employers' Liability, \$10,000; total, \$661,000.

On Dwellings.—North British and Mercantile, \$50,000.

### FIRE AT GODERICH, ONT.

By the fire which occurred on the 29th instant on the premises of the Goderich Manufacturing Company, Limited, the following companies are interested:—Northern, \$10,000; St. Paul, \$10,000; Guardian, \$10,000; total, \$30,000. Loss total.

### FIRE AT MONTREAL.

By the fire which occurred on the 20th instant in H. Gray & Co.'s building, 25 Common St., Montreal, the following company is interested:—Royal, \$24,000. Loss about 40 per cent.

TRAIL, B.C.—Fire recently did \$22,500 damage. Following are the losses: J. R. Randall, office, warehouse and sheds, \$1,500; J. R. Randall, stock of flour, grain, etc., \$4,500; J. R. Randall, eight-room residence, \$2,300; J. R. Randall, contents residence, \$1,500; J. R. Randall, carpenter shop, \$200; Catholic Church building, \$1,600; Catholic Church contents, \$800; Catholic Church, two-story parish hall, \$4,000; Andrew Dixon, residence, \$1,500; Mrs. Rose Lutsky, residence, \$1,000; C. P. R. freight warehouse and contents, shed, \$1,000; C. P. R. damage two freight cars, \$1,000; total loss, \$22,500.

BELLEVILLE, ONT.—T. Roblin's barn, drive-house, etc., destroyed with contents, August 18. Loss \$5,000, partly insured. Burning shingles ignited Frank Pitcher's barn and other buildings, which were destroyed with contents. Loss \$3,000; small insurance. E. Moy's barn and house also damaged from same cause.

ST. CATHARINES, ONT.—Numerous small fires have occurred in the city during the past few weeks, and there is a belief they are incendiary in character. A reward is accordingly being offered.

WINNIPEG.—Building and stock of Gold Medal Furniture Company, Gunnel Street and Henry Avenue destroyed, August 28. Loss \$50,000.

BRANTFORD, ONT.—Dwellings of R. Brigham and S. W. Vansickle destroyed with contents, August 27. Origin, explosion of oil stove.

NELSON, B.C.—Forest fire destroyed 2,500 cords of shingle bolts and 500,000 feet of lumber, property of Salmo Lumber Company.

BALLEVUE, ALTA.—Fire starting in livery barn, August 28, destroyed many buildings in business section.

BRANTFORD, ONT.—Car of manilla owned by Brantford Cordage Company destroyed, August 20.

GUELPH, ONT.—G. T. R. station house at Diamond damaged, August 20. Supposed origin, incendiarism.

MONTREAL.—Sarsfield school, corner of Richmond and Centre Streets, damaged, August 22.

VAUDREUIL, QUE.—District Chief Briere's residence destroyed, August 16. Origin, lightning.

CHAUDIERE, QUE.—R. Mathieu's house burned, August 22. Three lives lost. Origin, stove.

SASKATOON, SASK.—Barns of Western Distributors Company, Limited, burned, August 27.

STEVESON, B.C.—Several buildings in Japanese section destroyed, July 26.

### 60 P.C. FIRE WASTE DUE TO CARELESSNESS.

The Fire Marshal of Manitoba states in his annual report that many of the fires which his department is called upon to investigate are found to be due to the carelessness of the parties concerned. Fully sixty per cent. of the fire waste is due to preventable causes and carelessness on the part of owners and their employees—carelessness in the construction of buildings, in allowing buildings to become dilapidated, in making repairs to buildings, in the accumulation of fire-building material, the misuse of the "strike everywhere" match, smoking, defective wiring and numerous other causes which by a little care and forethought could be prevented. It is hoped, remarks the Fire Marshal, that when the public fully realize that loss by fire is a loss to the community, that it increases taxation not only to the insured, but to the people at large; that the money received from the fire insurance does not pay for or replace lost property, but is only an extra tax on the general public, and that the person that receives money for fire loss is only receiving it from his neighbours to reimburse him for his carelessness; that he will look upon fire prevention in a different light, and endeavour to reduce the fire loss of about three dollars per annum per capita in Manitoba and Canada to something like a reasonable charge; as, for example, the average fire loss of European countries, which amounts to about thirty cents per annum per capita. A great step towards this end could be accomplished if men and women would see that rubbish and waste were not permitted to collect in basements, storerooms and corners; if the heating and lighting apparatus were kept in a safe condition; if matches were properly used and disposed of; if buildings were properly rodged, chimneys and fire-places properly built and reasonably looked after; ashes, coal-oil and gasoline properly handled and disposed of; frozen water pipes thawed out so as to eliminate danger of fire; if conditions that bring about spontaneous combustion were eliminated—the electric iron properly taken care of, fire extinguishers installed where needed. If these and many other prevalent practices were discontinued, the preventable fire waste would be reduced.