FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICS, 1926

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:
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1927.

To His Honour ROBERT RANDOLPH BRUCE,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to present the Fifth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1926.

A. M. MANSON,

Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1927.

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REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1927.

Honourable A. M. Manson, K.C.,
Attorney-General, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my Fifth Annual Report as Fire Marshal, together with statistics showing the fire loss in the Province for the year ended December 31st, 1926.

The total for the year covering buildings and contents amounted to $3,638,427, being $538,414 less than 1925 and the lowest for the period covering the four years from 1923 to 1926. These figures include twenty logging camps and their equipment, but do not include forest fires and timber.

As in previous years, our heavy losses were in industrial plants and warehouses, due of course to the large values involved, and, further, to insufficient fire-protection equipment. The list of preventable fires is still too large, and it is evident that a more extensive campaign must be conducted to awaken the public to the seriousness of this unnecessary destruction of property. While we are gratified to note that there has been some reduction this year, yet there is still much to be done. When the public conscience is properly awakened the person in whose premises a fire occurs will be placed in the same category as the one who drives to the public danger, and the onus will be upon him to prove that he has used reasonable care to prevent fire.

A comparison of the statistics for 1925 and 1926 shows that the decreased losses for this year were fairly well spread over the entire Province. We are compelled to note, however, that there has been a decided increase in fourteen cities and eleven district municipalities. This is not a credit to the persons responsible for the fire-prevention work in these districts. It will also be noted that in seven cities and fifteen district and village municipalities they have failed to carry out the provisions of section 19 of the Act and provide for the regular inspection of buildings and premises.

You will be pleased to note, however, that some have been diligent in the work of fire-prevention during the year. Assistant Fire Marshals have made 52,134 inspections and issued 5,003 orders to remove hazards. Forty-five appeals from these orders were received and passed upon by this office. There were no appeals from my decisions to the Courts during the year. Twenty-nine convictions were obtained for failure to carry out orders. All fires were investigated and reports are on file in this office. Twelve inquiries were held under section 12 of the Act and three cases of arson discovered and prosecuted, a conviction being obtained in each case.

The demand for advice and assistance in the matter of fire-protection in public buildings, such as schools, hospitals, hotels, assembly-halls, and mercantile buildings, has grown greatly during the year and has been met as far as possible. There is an insistent demand and a great need has developed for Provincial regulations governing the methods of fire-prevention in these classes of buildings, particularly in municipalities and unorganized districts where there are no building by-laws in force.

Along the line of educational work we have co-operated with the insurance organizations in bringing the fire-prevention message to the pupils in the public schools throughout the Province. Gold medals and money prizes were offered for the best essays on the subject. Great interest was manifested by both teachers and scholars and the results were excellent. In addition to this, it has been my privilege, as opportunity offered, to address a number of schools throughout the Province. In the matter of educational propaganda, with your approval space was acquired in the daily papers and during Fire-prevention Week display advertisements were inserted calling attention to the enormous cost of our fires and the best methods of reducing them. It has been estimated that 80 per cent. of the population of the Province was reached by this method. A number of letters have been received testifying to the excellent results of this publicity.

Public buildings throughout the Province have been inspected during the year by members of the office staff and myself and such recommendations made for their protection from fire as

were found advisable and necessary. Advice and assistance has been given in the matter of fire-protection equipment for cities and municipalities. The City of North Vancouver and the Municipality of Point Grey have passed excellent fire-prevention by-laws. In a number of cities new fire-protection equipment has been purchased and put into commission.

There has been a very considerable advance in the installation of the new type "down-draught" refuse-burners in connection with our sawmills. In almost every case these burners have given complete satisfaction and undoubtedly have reduced the fire hazard in the mills using them.

With your approval, a hydro-thermograph was purchased and installed at the Provincial Court-house in charge of the Forest Branch of the Vancouver District. During the dry season frequent readings were taken each day. When the humidity was found to be nearing the danger-point sawmills and other hazardous industries were notified to take extra precautions and reduce fires. The co-operation of the mill-owners was excellent, with the result that in the district covered by this service the number of fires from sparks and other causes due to excessive heat and low humidity were greatly reduced.

Moving-picture Theatres Act.—In May, 1926, the regulations passed by Order in Council under the above Act were placed in my hands to administer. During the year 431 inspections on moving-picture theatres and film exchanges have been made and 137 orders to take care of unsafe conditions were issued and enforced. Ninety-seven kinematograph-machines were approved and stamped during the year. Two portable projection-rooms were inspected and approved. Plans and specifications for the construction of ten new theatres and for the remodelling of seven old ones were received, checked, and approved. On June 1st a film-report system was inaugurated, whereby we are able to keep a check on every film exhibited in the Province and to know its physical condition when leaving each theatre. As a result of this system of checking 22,000 feet of hazardous film was removed from circulation. In addition to this, the film exchanges voluntarily removed from circulation 36,000 feet of film, making a total of 58,000 feet of film which has been removed from circulation and destroyed during the year. Film fires in theatres during the year consumed 3,000 feet of film. Smokers' carelessness was responsible for two fires, while two fires with a loss of $10,837 were of unknown origin, one of which originated in a furnace-room.

Pursuant to regulations passed under the "Fire Marshal Act," the revisers employed in the exchanges operating in the Province have been examined as to their fitness for the work which they are called upon to do. In addition to this, Mr. Oswald has been assisted in the examination of seventeen projectionists during the year.

Thanks are due to the members of my staff for their efficient assistance in compiling the statistics in connection with this report and carrying out their duties under the Act; also to the Municipal and Provincial Police for their assistance in investigating fires and carrying out the dutes of Assistant Fire Marshals in unorganized districts and for valuable assistance rendered in the conviction of the offenders in the arson cases mentioned.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

J. ALFRED THOMAS,
Fire Marshal.

TABLE I.—INSPECTIONS MADE AND ORDERS ISSUED BY ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHALS.

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	.....	.....
Armstrong	37	4
Chilliwack	22	10
Courtenay	1	.....
Cranbrook	300	104
Cumberland	41	11
Duncan	149	29
Enderby	35	.....
Fernie	659	42
Grand Forks	5	3
Greenwood	.....	.....
Kamloops	508	6
Kaslo	.....	.....
Kelowna	.....	.....
Ladysmith	70	14
Merritt	45	17
Nanaimo	696	10
Nelson	1,141	78
New Westminster	1,187	124
North Vancouver	1,746	160
Port Alberni	24	19
Port Coquitlam	.....	.....
Port Moody	55	6
Prince George	312	104
Prince Rupert	355	150
Revelstoke	327	5
Rossland	309	124
Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Slocan	.....	.....
Trail	1,353	6
Vancouver	29,375	3,311
Vernon	245	2
Victoria	6,922	179
Totals	45,919	4,518
District Municipalities (29).		
Burnaby	120	33
Chilliwack	43	.....
Coldstream	.....	.....
Coquitlam	.....	.....
Delta	.....	.....
Esquimalt	51	32
Fraser Mills	28	.....
Kent	.....	.....
Langley	.....	.....
Maple Ridge	.....	.....
Matsqui	8	.....
Mission	54	.....
North Cowichan	290	116
North Vancouver	.....	.....
Oak Bay	120	6
Peachland	.....	.....
Penticton	47	9
Pitt Meadows	.....	.....
Point Grey	2,254	25
Richmond	37	22
Saanich	10	8
Salmon Arm	.....	.....
South Vancouver	1,865	59
Spallumcheen	.....	.....
Sumas	.....	.....

TABLE I.—INSPECTIONS MADE AND ORDERS ISSUED BY ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHALS—*Continued.*

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Summerland	25	7
Surrey	1	.....
Tadanac	262	11
West Vancouver	60	16
Totals	5,275	344
Village Municipalities (6).		
Abbotsford	.....	.....
Burns Lake	17	8
Creston	11	3
Mission	201	32
Smithers	.....	.....
Vanderhoof	.....	.....
Totals	229	43
Fire Districts (24).		
Anyox	1	1
Burns Lake	3	1
Dawson Creek	.....	.....
Golden	9	9
Hazelton	.....	.....
Hedley	.....	.....
Ioco	14	.....
Kimberley	147	47
Lucerne	.....	.....
Moyie	.....	.....
Nakusp	.....	.....
Oliver	38	2
Pacific Mills, Limited	.....	.....
Port Essington	12	8
Pouce Coupe	.....	.....
Powell River	420	.....
Princeton	33	20
Quesnel	11	.....
Rolla	.....	.....
Sandon	.....	.....
Stewart	9	10
Telkwa	6	.....
Terrace	.....	.....
Union Bay	8	.....
Totals	711	98
Grand totals	52,134	5,003
Grand totals, 1925	49,889	4,759
Grand totals, 1924	49,677	5,304
Grand totals, 1923	40,573	5,468

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	2	$ 255
Armstrong	1	500
Chilliwack	3	12,334
Courtenay	19	47,005
Cranbrook	17	3,559
Cumberland	1	258
Duncan	5	6,927
Enderby	1	1,000
Fernie	15	8,071
Grand Forks	7	3,726
Greenwood	2	3,934
Kamloops	7	7,235
Kaslo	1	250
Kelowna	13	1,092
Ladysmith	7	2,894
Merritt	5	1,560
Nanaimo	38	18,919
Nelson	16	6,551
New Westminster	44	52,545
North Vancouver	30	13,804
Port Alberni	8	8,548
Port Coquitlam	5	8,068
Port Moody	11	21,063
Prince George	2	2,639
Prince Rupert	15	161,175
Revelstoke	21	24,820
Rossland	13	6,240
Salmon Arm	2	775
Slocan	.....	.....
Trail	14	2,746
Vancouver	549	864,061
Vernon	5	4,216
Victoria	99	32,656
Totals	978	$1,329,426
District Municipalities (29).		
Burnaby	64	$ 80,706
Chilliwack	20	62,875
Coldstream	.....	.....
Coquitlam	12	21,092
Delta	3	5,894
Esquimalt	4	998
Fraser Mills	.....	.....
Kent	2	1,932
Langley	18	59,533
Maple Ridge	19	38,960
Matsqui	13	4,513
Mission	5	8,604
North Cowichan	5	11,489
North Vancouver	7	16,755
Oak Bay	13	2,262
Peachland	2	4,400
Penticton	17	20,268
Pitt Meadows	4	7,246
Point Grey	112	18,154
Richmond	8	31,410
Saanich	26	10,684
Salmon Arm	4	4,220
South Vancouver	85	211,646
Spallumcheen	3	10,300
Sumas	8	13,001
Summerland	7	32,753

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Surrey	15	$ 72,796
Tadanac	4	1,520
West Vancouver	7	4,170
Totals	487	$ 758,181
Village Municipalities (6).		
Abbotsford	2	$ 2,198
Burns Lake	4	36,098
Creston	.....	.....
Mission	8	12,421
Smithers	4	639
Vanderhoof	.....	.....
Totals	18	$ 51,356
Fire Districts (24).		
Anyox	3	$ 21,304
Burns Lake	.....	.....
Dawson Creek	.....	.....
Golden	.....	.....
Hazelton	1	25
Hedley	.....	.....
Ioco	2	18,106
Kimberley	4	1,289
Lucerne	.....	.....
Moyie	.....	.....
Nakusp	.....	.....
Oliver	.....	.....
Pacific Mills, Limited	1	30
Port Essington	1	124
Pouce Coupe	.....	.....
Powell River	1	4,570
Princeton	2	3,004
Quesnel	.....	.....
Rolla	.....	.....
Sandon	.....	.....
Stewart	4	5,926
Telkwa	.....	.....
Terrace	2	39
Union Bay	7	10,489
Totals	28	$ 64,936
Unorganized Districts (15).		
Boundary	16	$ 40,315
Fort George	10	97,228
Fort St. John	2	4,000
Hazelton	4	9,063
Kamloops	23	51,771
Kootenay, North-east	13	121,497
Kootenay, South-east	37	170,178
Kootenay, West	28	138,405
Lillooet	9	15,783
Nanaimo	81	217,605
Prince Rupert	6	42,158
Vancouver-New Westminster	36	307,152
Vernon	25	46,793
Victoria	27	138,214
Yale	6	34,366
Totals	323	$1,434,528
Grand totals	1,834	$3,638,427

NOTE.—Construction of buildings—

Fire-resisting	1,	loss $	73
Brick or concrete	251,	,,	703,732
Frame	1,582,	,,	2,934,622
	1,834,	,,	$3,638,427

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Ammonia-fumes burning tires	1	$ 202
Ashes against wood	16	9,865
Boiler insufficiently protected	1	10,426
Candle carelessness	17	1,424
Canned heat left burning	1	15
Carburettor back-firing	27	14,928
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	30	6,516
Coal-gas explosion	3	5,233
Coal-oil carelessness	9	12,649
Coal-oil, children with	1	2,200
Collision	5	2,350
Curtains from candle	1	8
Curtains from lamp	1	10
Curtains from stove	1	77
Defective battery connection	1	10
Defective blower	1	68
Defective brooder	4	2,343
Defective chimney	97	171,512
Defective film	2	367
Defective fireplace	31	14,122
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	9	5,923
Defective heater	1	800
Defective lamp	3	280
Defective matches	7	321
Defective muffler	2	633
Defective oil-stove	1	110
Defective oven	1	275
Defective stove or stove-pipe	25	31,237
Defective wiring	15	10,444
Dust explosion	1	16,000
Electrical appliances	53	19,537
Engine back-firing	1	304
Exposure	204	777,924
Fire-crackers	1	7
Friction in pulley	1	117
Fumigation	1	50
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	11	8,329
Gasolene carelessness	25	21,844
Gasolene, children with	2	303
Gasolene explosion	4	24,250
Gasolene leaking on exhaust-pipe	2	2,475
Gasolene-torch explosion	2	165
Gas-plate insufficiently protected	4	779
Grease on stove	23	15,056
Gunpowder, child with	1	30
High-tension wires falling on building	1	450
Hollow-shaft explosion	1	66
Hot box	3	8,833
Hot chain put in barrel of tar caused explosion	1	4,064
Hot gravel against wood	1	367
Hot poker left against woodwork	1	60
Hot soldering-iron laid on tray	1	3
Ignition of escaping gas by pilot-light	1	75
Incendiary	23	55,203
Lamp explosion	7	26,738
Lamp upset	9	12,120
Lantern explosion	1	5,500
Lantern hung too near rafters	1	7
Lantern upset	1	5,500
Lightning	5	3,396
Lime ignited by water	1	250
Live coals	6	106
Match carelessness	42	17,528
Matches, children with	32	10,332
Matches, mice with	4	1,526

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES—*Continued.*

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Mattress too near stove	3	$ 80
Oil overflowing from furnace	1	226
Oil-stove upset	2	6,071
Overheating of dry-kiln	3	35,350
Overheating of lime-kiln	1	2,897
Paper from fireplace	1	10
Phosphorus	1	32
Pressure-tank explosion	1	600
Rubbish around furnace	2	2,870
Short circuit	67	112,550
Smokers' carelessness	231	150,648
Sparks from boiler	3	1,062
Sparks from burning rubbish	7	2,486
Sparks from bush fire	18	88,091
Sparks from chimney	195	125,711
Sparks from copper mould	1	20
Sparks from cupola	1	2,460
Sparks from cutting-machine	1	3,000
Sparks from Dutch oven	1	1,494
Sparks from engine	8	27,450
Sparks from fireplace	57	5,268
Sparks from furnace or furnace-pipe	6	30,357
Sparks from locomotive	6	24,520
Sparks from mill burner	17	288,136
Sparks from oven fire	1	568
Sparks from slash fire	1	2,975
Sparks from smoke-stack	6	1,370
Sparks from steam-shovel	1	1,424
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	19	12,184
Spontaneous combustion	36	139,063
Stove explosion	2	1,501
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	92	115,929
Sun's rays	2	49,608
Tar boiling over	5	6,912
Thawing pipes	6	885
Torch explosion	1	95
Unknown	222	1,041,588
Varnish boiling over on stove	1	185
Wood too near furnace	3	934
Wood too near stove	10	8,175
Totals	1,834	$3,638,427

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Apartments	38	Ashes against wood	1	$ 90	
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	8	
		Defective chimney	2	110	
		Defective furnace	1	300	
		Defective wiring	1	13	
		Electrical appliances	1	24	
		Exposure	1	90	
		Gasolene carelessness	1	50	
		Hot soldering-iron laid on tray	1	3	
		Lamp upset	2	9	
		Match carelessness	1	25	
		Matches, children with	1	119	
		Short circuit	2	332	
		Smokers' carelessness	16	520	
		Sparks from chimney	1	100	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	22	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	1,822	
		Torch explosion	1	95	
		Unknown	2	427	
					$ 4,159
Automobiles	144	Ammonia-fumes burning tires	1	$ 202	
		Carburettor back-firing	23	3,910	
		Collision	5	2,350	
		Defective battery connection	1	10	
		Defective muffler	2	633	
		Defective wiring	2	675	
		Exposure	17	12,752	
		Gasolene carelessness	4	1,315	
		Gasolene leaking on exhaust-pipe	2	2,475	
		Match carelessness	5	5,091	
		Matches, children with	1	100	
		Pressure-tank explosion	1	600	
		Short circuit	47	12,883	
		Smokers' carelessness	11	1,368	
		Unknown	22	11,832	
					56,196
Bakeries	6	Ashes against wood	1	$ 20	
		Defective oven	1	275	
		Grease on stove	1	239	
		Sparks from oven fire	1	568	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	324	
		Unknown	1	1,000	
					2,426
Banks	1	Exposure	1	.....	633
Barber-shops	2	Ashes against wood	1	$ 7	
		Sparks from stove	1	125	
					132
Barns	44	Exposure	1	$ 800	
		Incendiary	1	500	
		Lantern explosion	1	5,500	
		Lantern upset	1	5,500	
		Lightning	1	3,000	
		Match carelessness	2	3,800	
		Matches, children with	3	1,673	
		Smokers' carelessness	10	25,615	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	321	
		Sparks from cutting-machine	1	3,000	
		Sparks from locomotive	1	1,437	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	50	
		Spontaneous combustion	7	14,748	
		Unknown	13	25,562	
					91,506
Barns and stables	3	Incendiary	1	$ 3,000	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	2,071	
		Unknown	1	228	
					5,299

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Barracks	1	Sparks from chimney	1	$ 20	
Blacksmith-shops	4	Gasolene explosion	1	$ 500	
		Oil-stove upset	1	6,000	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	1,200	
		Sparks from chimney	1	2,000	
					9,700
Boarding-houses	6	Smokers' carelessness	2	$ 16	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	7	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	635	
		Unknown	2	1,425	
					2,083
Boat-houses	1	Gasolene carelessness	1		4,570
Bowling-alleys	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1		75
Bunk-houses	7	Incendiary	1	$ 934	
		Match carelessness	1	46	
		Sparks from engine	1	452	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	150	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	500	
		Unknown	2	3,700	
					5,782
Canneries	2	Hot chain put in barrel of tar caused explosion	1	$ 4,064	
		Sparks from chimney	1	124	
					4,188
Chicken-houses	8	Ashes against wood	1	$ 150	
		Defective brooder	2	262	
		Defective lamp	1	75	
		Fumigation	1	50	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	505	
		Unknown	2	704	
					1,746
Churches	5	Electrical appliances	1	$ 10	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	415	
		Unknown	3	468	
					893
Churches and dwellings	1	Defective fireplace	1		11,290
Clubs	6	Exposure	2	$ 109	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	7,692	
		Sparks from chimney	2	2,035	
					9,836
Dairies	3	Short circuit	1	$ 254	
		Sparks from smoke-stack	1	61	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	59	
					374
Dry-cleaning establishments	1	Electrical appliances	1		22
Dry-kilns	3	Sparks from locomotive	1	$ 4,598	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	200	
		Unknown	1	28,192	
					32,990
Dwellings	952	Ashes against wood	5	$ 670	
		Candle carelessness	15	1,171	
		Canned heat left burning	1	15	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	29	5,602	
		Coal-gas explosion	3	5,233	
		Coal-oil carelessness	8	12,641	
		Coal-oil, children with	1	2,200	
		Curtains from candle	1	8	
		Curtains from lamp	1	10	
		Curtains from stove	1	77	
		Defective brooder	2	2,081	
		Defective chimney	83	105,330	
		Defective fireplace	27	2,664	
		Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	7	5,188	
		Defective lamp	1	5	
		Defective matches	6	268	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Defective oil-stove	1	$ 110	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	19	27,605	
		Defective wiring	7	4,684	
		Electrical appliances	40	18,903	
		Exposure	38	26,480	
		Fire-crackers	1	7	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	8	6,914	
		Gasolene carelessness	7	1,258	
		Gasolene, children with	2	303	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	4	779	
		Grease on stove	17	12,527	
		Gunpowder, child with	1	30	
		High-tension wires falling on building	1	450	
		Incendiary	10	12,877	
		Lamp explosion	5	17,187	
		Lamp upset	6	12,086	
		Lightning	3	224	
		Live coals	6	106	
		Match carelessness	16	2,680	
		Matches, children with	23	7,697	
		Matches, mice with	2	430	
		Mattress too near stove	3	80	
		Paper from fireplace	1	10	
		Rubbish around furnace	1	67	
		Short circuit	8	15,555	
		Smokers' carelessness	95	22,254	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	4	2,070	
		Sparks from bush fire	9	24,861	
		Sparks from chimney	163	92,949	
		Sparks from fireplace	53	3,315	
		Sparks from furnace	2	2,250	
		Sparks from locomotive	1	500	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	264	
		Sparks from steam-shovel	1	1,424	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	13	4,398	
		Spontaneous combustion	12	39,764	
		Stove explosion	2	1,501	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	75	103,781	
		Sun's rays	1	25	
		Tar boiling over	3	1,400	
		Thawing pipes	5	468	
		Unknown	80	117,364	
		Varnish boiling over on stove	1	185	
		Wood too near furnace	1	58	
		Wood too near stove	9	7,375	
					$ 738,418
Dye-works	1	Gasolene carelessness	1		626
Electrical plants	1	Unknown	1		910
Electrical repair-shops	1	Hollow-shaft explosion	1		66
Electric-light poles	2	Exposure	1	$ 77	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	5	
					82
Factories (asphalt)	1	Hot gravel against wood	1		367
Factories (box)	9	Exposure	1	$ 2,500	
		Friction in pulley	1	117	
		Hot box	1	2,501	
		Overheating of dry-kiln	2	7,485	
		Sparks from furnace	1	25,049	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	200	
		Sparks from smoke-stack	1	203	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	1,266	
					39,321
Factories (brick and tile)	1	Unknown	1		20,000
Factories (fish meal and oil)	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		16,000
Factories (hat and cap)	1	Unknown	1		1,814

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Factories (sash and door)	2	Sparks from smoke-stack	1	$ 150	
		Unknown	1	3,145	
					$ 3,295
Factories (sheet metal)	1	Sparks from chimney	1		75
Factories (soap)	1	Unknown	1		1,500
Factories (steel products)	1	Ashes against wood	1		10
Factories (wood-working)	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		258
Fishing-boats	4	Carburettor back-firing	1	$ 3,800	
		Gasolene carelessness	2	3,500	
		Gasolene explosion	1	4,000	
					11,300
Fish-packing plants	1	Ashes against wood	1		75
Foundries	4	Defective chimney	1	$ 622	
		Sparks from cupola	1	2,460	
		Unknown	1	1,030	
		Wood too near furnace	1	150	
					4,262
Freight-cars	5	Exposure	3	$ 1,550	
		Sparks from locomotive	1	30	
		Unknown	1	600	
					2,180
Garages	39	Carburettor back-firing	1	$ 6,193	
		Defective stove	1	2,812	
		Exposure	6	19,261	
		Gasolene carelessness	5	6,442	
		Gasolene explosion	1	4,750	
		Gasolene-torch explosion	2	165	
		Match carelessness	1	100	
		Short circuit	2	3,020	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	9,817	
		Sparks from chimney	1	2,058	
		Spontaneous combustion	3	5,681	
		Unknown	13	9,914	
					70,213
Golf-club houses	4	Defective fireplace	1	$ 36	
		Sparks from chimney	1	10	
		Sparks from stove-pipe	1	12	
		Unknown	1	5,325	
					5,383
Gravel plants	1	Sparks from mill burner	1		20
Greenhouses	3	Furnace insufficiently protected	1	$ 150	
		Lantern too near rafters	1	7	
		Matches, children with	1	150	
					307
Halls	4	Defective chimney	1	$ 22	
		Sparks from chimney	1	2,723	
		Unknown	1	7	
		Wood too near furnace	1	726	
					3,478
Hospitals	1	Sparks from chimney	1		200
Hospitals (dog)	1	Thawing pipes	1		417
Hotels	51	Candle carelessness	1	$ 3	
		Defective chimney	2	14,366	
		Electrical appliances	2	30	
		Exposure	2	21,454	
		Incendiary	3	28,592	
		Match carelessness	1	150	
		Smokers' carelessness	32	8,709	
		Sparks from chimney	1	62	
		Unknown	7	70,846	
					144,212
Launches	5	Carburettor back-firing	2	$ 1,025	
		Gasolene carelessness	2	2,300	
		Match carelessness	1	500	
					3,825

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Laundries	5	Clothes too near stove	1	$ 914	
		Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	1	435	
		Sparks from smoke-stack	1	911	
		Unknown	1	70	
		Wood too near stove	1	800	
					$ 3,130
Lime plants	1	Overheating of lime-kiln	1	.....	2,897
Logging camps	20	Ashes against wood	1	$ 8,733	
		Defective chimney	1	6,232	
		Engine back-firing	1	304	
		Exposure	1	164,234	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	1,502	
		Sparks from bush fire	2	7,637	
		Sparks from chimney	1	3,620	
		Sparks from engine	5	23,885	
		Sparks from slash fire	1	2,975	
		Sun's rays	1	49,583	
		Unknown	4	109,024	
					377,729
Lumber-piles	3	Sparks from bush fire	1	$ 500	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	19,313	
		Unknown	1	2,158	
					21,971
Lumber-yards	1	Exposure	1	.....	27
Machine-shops	1	Sparks from mill burner	1	.....	2,670
Mining property	6	Defective heater	1	$ 800	
		Short circuit	1	79,570	
		Sparks from bush fire	2	7,000	
		Sparks from copper mould	1	20	
		Sparks from furnace	1	100	
					87,490
Offices	18	Defective stove-pipe	1	$ 25	
		Defective wiring	1	103	
		Exposure	6	2,073	
		Hot poker left against woodwork	1	60	
		Match carelessness	1	80	
		Short circuit	1	36	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	42	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	5	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	341	
		Unknown	1	417	
					3,182
Oil-tankers	1	Gasolene explosion	1	.....	15,000
Photograph studios	2	Defective wiring	1	$ 1,312	
		Exposure	1	94	
					1,406
Planing-mills	1	Unknown	1	.....	23,780
Playhouses (children's)	1	Matches, children with	1	.....	5
Post-offices	1	Exposure	1	.....	1,730
Post-offices and dwellings	2	Sparks from mill burner	1	$ 2,597	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	85	
					2,682
Pottery plants	1	Sparks from furnace or furnace-pipe	1	.....	2,900
Printing-offices	5	Defective chimney	1	$ 22	
		Exposure	2	1,230	
		Match carelessness	1	3,443	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	56	
					4,751
Railway stations	2	Stove insufficiently protected	1	$ 650	
		Unknown	1	1,800	
					2,450
Refineries (sugar)	1	Dust explosion	1	.....	16,000
Restaurants	1	Grease on stove	1	.....	257
Road-houses	1	Incendiary	1	.....	45

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Rooming-houses	13	Electrical appliances	3	$ 23	
		Exposure	1	152	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	850	
		Rubbish around furnace	1	2,803	
		Short circuit	1	350	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	29	
		Sparks from chimney	2	780	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	24	
					$ 5,011
Rooms and offices	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$ 9	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
					14
Sacked wheat	1	Unknown	1	.....	300
Sawmills	29	Exposure	1	$ 1,780	
		Hot box	2	6,332	
		Incendiary	1	2,000	
		Match carelessness	1	250	
		Sparks from boiler	3	1,062	
		Sparks from bush fire	3	46,893	
		Sparks from Dutch oven	1	1,494	
		Sparks from engine	1	3,000	
		Sparks from mill burner	8	249,026	
		Unknown	8	275,180	
					587,017
Schools	10	Defective chimney	1	$ 37,257	
		Lightning	1	172	
		Phosphorus	1	32	
		Sparks from chimney	4	138	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	627	
		Unknown	2	1,450	
					39,676
Sheds	27	Ashes against wood	1	$ 30	
		Candle carelessness	1	250	
		Defective lamp	1	200	
		Defective stove-pipe	2	65	
		Exposure	1	505	
		Grease on stove	1	29	
		Lime ignited by water	1	250	
		Match carelessness	1	100	
		Matches, children with	5	725	
		Short circuit	1	375	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	315	
		Sparks from chimney	1	10	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	100	
		Unknown	7	1,005	
					3,959
Shingle-mills	8	Overheating of dry-kiln	1	$ 27,865	
		Sparks from chimney	1	302	
		Sparks from locomotive	1	14,755	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	13,846	
		Unknown	4	49,895	
					106,663
Slaughter-houses	1	Sparks from locomotive	1	.....	3,200
Stables	7	Ashes against wood	1	$ 15	
		Exposure	1	24	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	3,738	
		Sparks from chimney	1	829	
					4,606
Stores	77	Ashes against wood	1	$ 23	
		Defective chimney	5	5,701	
		Defective wiring	1	350	
		Electrical appliances	5	525	
		Exposure	25	42,372	
		Gasolene carelessness	1	1,483	
		Grease on stove	2	1,444	
		Incendiary	3	2,788	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Lamp upset	1	$ 25	
		Match carelessness	3	251	
		Short circuit	1	50	
		Smokers' carelessness	13	8,916	
		Sparks from chimney	3	40	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	1	4,800	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	3,301	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	3,951	
		Unknown	7	42,524	
					$ 118,544
Stores and apartments	7	Defective wiring	1	$ 14	
		Exposure	1	59	
		Oil-stove upset	1	71	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	308	
		Unknown	2	47	
					499
Stores and dwellings	37	Ashes against wood	1	$ 42	
		Defective chimney	1	2,450	
		Defective fireplace	2	132	
		Exposure	6	19,497	
		Gasolene carelessness	1	300	
		Lamp explosion	2	9,551	
		Match carelessness	2	445	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	770	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	20	
		Sparks from chimney	4	17,006	
		Sparks from furnace	1	58	
		Sparks from stove	1	1,839	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	3,842	
		Unknown	10	45,120	
					101,072
Stores and hotels	6	Smokers' carelessness	4	$ 191	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	1,900	
		Unknown	1	5,776	
					7,867
Stores and offices	10	Defective matches	1	$ 53	
		Defective wiring	1	3,293	
		Exposure	1	4,522	
		Matches, mice with	1	1,062	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	28,092	
		Sparks from engine	1	113	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	1,169	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	5	
		Tar boiling over	1	112	
					38,421
Stores, offices, and apartments	1	Smokers' carelessness	1	.....	7
Stores, offices, and rooms	1	Matches, mice with	1	.....	34
Stores and post-offices	1	Unknown	1	.....	11,839
Stores and rooms	19	Defective stove	2	$ 730	
		Exposure	1	138	
		Grease on stove	1	560	
		Incendiary	1	67	
		Smokers' carelessness	11	3,619	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	1,715	
		Tar boiling over	1	5,400	
					12,229
Street-cars	2	Short circuit	2	.....	125
Tanneries	1	Unknown	1	.....	50,990
Telephone exchanges	2	Exposure	1	$ 150	
		Sparks from chimney	1	25	
					175
Tents	1	Sparks from stove	1	.....	10
Theatres	6	Defective film	2	$ 367	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	277	
		Unknown	2	10,837	
					11,481

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Tool-houses	1	Unknown	1		$ 400
Warehouses	103	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$ 10,426	
		Defective blower	1	68	
		Exposure	80	453,631	
		Ignition of escaping gas by pilot-light	1	75	
		Incendiary	1	4,400	
		Match carelessness	2	430	
		Oil overflowing from furnace	1	226	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	10,276	
		Sparks from smoke-stack	1	5	
		Sparks from stove	1	1,000	
		Spontaneous combustion	3	68,092	
		Unknown	8	102,983	
					651,612
Water-tanks	1	Sparks from smoke-stack	1		40
Totals	1,834		1,834		$3,638,427

TABLE V.—SUMMARY.

	Fires reported.						Amount of Loss.					
	City Municipalities (33).	District Municipalities (29).	Village Municipalities (6).	Fire Districts (24).	Unorganized Districts (15).	Total.	City Municipalities.	District Municipalities.	Village Municipalities.	Fire Districts.	Unorganized Districts.	Total.
1926.												
January	70	35	.....	2	11	118	$ 180,642	$ 35,051	.....	$ 2,056	$ 21,142	$ 238,891
February	63	26	.....	7	18	114	38,387	22,937	.....	27,959	33,002	122,285
March	67	37	4	2	16	126	75,286	58,905	$ 5,638	3,025	38,710	181,564
April	68	48	4	.....	26	146	51,997	46,741	1,517	.....	55,180	155,435
May	91	33	1	2	21	148	97,543	50,653	4,000	4,890	29,488	186,574
June	71	45	1	1	25	143	44,588	92,873	1,300	4	97,817	236,582
July	91	48	5	5	53	202	45,091	98,455	38,795	6,878	570,478	759,697
August	78	32	.....	3	45	158	273,106	26,204	.....	1,263	109,377	409,950
September	77	48	.....	1	29	155	102,256	111,650	.....	124	112,743	326,773
October	62	41	1	2	25	131	15,331	40,190	23	18,106	74,831	148,481
November	63	43	1	1	25	133	20,160	87,831	58	30	172,316	280,395
December	177	51	1	2	29	260	385,039	86,691	25	601	119,444	591,800
Totals, 1926	978	487	18	28	323	1,834	$1,329,426	$ 758,181	$ 51,356	$ 64,936	$1,434,528	$ 3,638,427
Totals, 1925	841	409	29	54	341	1,674	1,653,894	766,829	66,794	166,212	1,523,112	4,176,841
Totals, 1924	898	411	10	30	333	1,682	1,689,953	781,790	29,920	58,879	1,489,906	4,050,448
Totals, 1923	859	372	.....	18	300	1,549	1,617,505	1,120,047	.....	38,054	1,454,311	4,229,917
Totals, 1922	934	388	.....	19	348	1,689	1,297,245	750,346	.....	27,213	1,177,564	3,252,368
	4,510	2,067	57	149	1,645	8,428	$7,588,023	$4,177,193	$148,070	$355,294	$7,079,421	$19,348,001

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1922–26.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.	
		Adults.	Children.
Boarding-house	Unknown	5	....
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	1	....
Dwelling	Coal-oil, children with	....	2
Dwelling	Gasolene, children with	....	2
Dwelling	Gunpowder, child with	....	1
Dwelling	Matches, children with	....	1
Dwelling	Stove insufficiently protected	1	....
Dwelling	Unknown	....	4
Fishing-boat	Gasolene carelessness	1	....
Totals, 1926		8	10
Totals, 1925		5	4
Totals, 1924		1	5
Totals, 1923		5	9
Totals, 1922		8	2

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