FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICS, 1925

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:
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1926.

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 Fourth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

A. M. MANSON,

Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1926.

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REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1926.

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

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my fourth annual report as Fire Marshal, covering the year ended December 31st, 1925.

One thousand six hundred and seventy-four fires have occurred during the year, the total loss in buildings and contents being $4,176,841, an increase of $126,393 over 1924 and $53,076 less than in 1923.

Eight hundred and forty-one fires, involving a loss of $1,653,894, occurred in the city municipalities which contain more than 50 per cent. of the entire population of the Province and where at least 75 per cent. of the property values, in buildings and stocks, are located.

Three hundred and forty-one fires, with a property loss of $1,523,112, was the record for the unorganized districts.

In the district municipalities, which are largely rural, we had 409 fires and a property loss of $766,829.

In the five village municipalities there were twenty-nine fires, with a loss of $66,794. Thirteen of these fires are credited to Burns Lake, with a loss of $53,558. This high figure was due to a conflagration started by a defective chimney which practically wiped out the business district.

The fire districts, of which there are twenty-three throughout the Province, show a record of fifty-four fires, with a loss of $166,212. Of this total Anyox contributed $13,180 in two fires; Kimberley, five fires, $42,250; Port Essington, five fires, $35,030; and Quesnel, nineteen fires, with a loss of $52,760.

Table IV. of this report shows that over 50 per cent. of our losses occurred in dwellings and industrial plants. Nine hundred and forty-five dwellings, valued with their contents at $964,352, and twenty-eight apartment-houses, with a loss of $11,975, make a total of $976,327 for our homes. Industrial losses, including factories, canneries, machine-shops, sawmills, and shingle-mills, added $1,198,069, making a total loss from fire in our homes and industrial plants of $2,174,396.

Of the 1,674 fires, 1,530 were in buildings of frame construction, causing a loss of $3,688,372. Only 144 fires occurred in fire-resistive, concrete, or brick-joisted buildings.

It would appear from this record that if we are to reduce our fire losses we must take steps to improve our methods of building construction.

During the year 1925 reports from the Assistant Fire Marshals show that buildings to the value of over $40,000,000 were erected in this Province. In only a few of our larger cities and municipalities are there building restrictions. In the large towns of our unorganized districts and in the rural municipalities each man is a law unto himself when it comes to erecting a building. The result of this method is that ranges of wooden buildings have been built up in the towns and business centres of our municipalities without any provision for fire walls or stops of any kind. Notwithstanding the fact that defective chimneys and stove-pipes caused a loss of nearly $300,000 in property last year, we find hundreds of stove-pipe chimneys being installed. This method of construction can only have one result, and that is disastrous fires.

In addition to this, Councils in the rural municipalities absolutely refuse to provide fire-protection equipment of any kind for the business centres. In the unorganized towns the only way in which to provide such equipment is by voluntary contribution by the business-men, which has proved very unsatisfactory.

In the City of Vancouver an industrial fire occurred involving a loss of $143,000. Upon investigation it developed that the major portion of this loss was due to the absence of fire-walls required by the city laws to prevent the spread of fire, the result being a serious loss of property.

An attempt has been made during the year to have some of the towns in the unorganized districts incorporate under the "Village Municipalities Act" with a view to enacting building by-laws and providing for fire-protection. Owing to certain local conditions they have failed to take action.

In the line of fire-protection we have been active during the year. One hundred and twenty-three Assistant Fire Marshals have made 49,889 inspections and issued 4,759 orders under the Act to remove fire hazards. One thousand eight hundred and forty-three fire-drills have been conducted in public buildings. Eighty summonses were issued and forty-six convictions obtained. Hospitals, asylums, and schools throughout the Province have been visited and inspected and such recommendations made as were necessary for their protection. Plans and specifications for new hospitals and hotels have been checked and approved. In addition, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Oswald, and myself have checked up the work of the Assistant Fire Marshals, giving assistance and advice when requested. Twelve inquiries have been held during the year, at which evidence was taken under oath. All fires have been investigated and the records have been kept and tabulated by Miss Williamson in her usual efficient manner. Sixty-two appeals from the orders of the Assistant Fire Marshals have been investigated and disposed of during the year. There have been no appeals to the Courts from the Fire Marshal.

Regulations governing the installation and protection of oil-refining plants have been enforced. Two companies have submitted plans for plants involving an expenditure of approximately $500,000. These plans have been checked and approved and construction is proceeding.

Pursuant to your instructions, on January 1st we took over the administration of that portion of the "Moving Pictures Act" governing the inspection, construction, and equipment of motion-picture theatres. Mr. Oswald, of the Censor's staff, was appointed Assistant Fire Marshal and added to this office. He has been actively engaged during the year, having made 428 inspections, issued fifty-four orders to remedy unsafe conditions, and condemned 35,000 feet of damaged film. Seven new theatres have been built during the year, plans and specifications for which have been examined and approved by this office.

On December 31st, 1925, there were 122 theatres, kinematographs, and film exchanges in operation in the Province. The fire loss in films and equipment amounted to only $950, an excellent record. In addition to his inspection-work, Mr. Oswald has assisted in conducting thirty-two examinations for projectionists. During the year the regulations governing the construction and equipment of motion-picture theatres have been revised and brought up to date.

Regulations governing the keeping and sale of nitro-cellulose film and kinematographs have been drafted and submitted for your approval.

The hazard of the open refuse-burner is still with us. Twelve fires from this source caused a loss of $273,359. While the new type of "down-draught" burner has been proved 100 per cent. efficient and a number have been installed, it would appear that drastic action on the part of the authorities will be necessary to bring the balance of the mill-owners into line. It is only a question of time when the conditions existing on False Creek and the Burrard water-front in the City of Vancouver will result in a conflagration that will wipe out the industrial district and the city bridges. In the meantime interested parties are busily engaged trying to decide who will pay for and build a fire-boat.

New fire-protection equipment has been installed in twenty of the cities and towns during the year. Penticton, Kelowna, and Point Grey have built new fire-halls.

Nine lives were lost by fire in 1925—five adults and four children. Six deaths occurred in homes, two in hotels, and one in a logging camp. An exceptionally sad case was that of Mrs. Mabel Hunter, of South Wellington, who, with her four young children, met death while trying to rescue them from her burning home.

In closing, permit me to express my appreciation of the assistance given in my work by Colonel J. H. McMullin and members of the Provincial Police Force, the City and Municipal Police, and the Assistant Fire Marshals throughout the Province.

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 (34).		
Alberni	.....	.....
Armstrong	38	4
Chilliwack	24	16
Courtenay	.....	.....
Cranbrook	280	76
Cumberland	32	6
Duncan	451	18
Enderby	36	1
Fernie	449	70
Grand Forks	26	23
Greenwood	5	.....
Kamloops	528	8
Kaslo	.....	.....
Kelowna	3	.....
Ladysmith	.....	.....
Merritt	35	16
Nanaimo	722	5
Nelson	1,124	107
New Westminster	541	61
North Vancouver	1,014	99
Phoenix	.....	.....
Port Alberni	.....	.....
Port Coquitlam	25	9
Port Moody	75	4
Prince George	310	96
Prince Rupert	320	125
Revelstoke	350	9
Rossland	400	131
Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Slocan	.....	.....
Trail	222	58
Vancouver	30,862	3,084
Vernon	195	17
Victoria	6,757	175
Totals	44,824	4,218
District Municipalities (29).		
Burnaby	120	43
Chilliwack	88	.....
Coldstream	.....	.....
Coquitlam	.....	.....
Delta	.....	.....
Esquimalt	48	22
Fraser Mills	280	.....
Kent	.....	.....
Langley	2	1
Maple Ridge	2	.....
Matsqui	22	.....
Mission	33	.....
North Cowichan	169	72
North Vancouver	11	1
Oak Bay	101	6
Peachland	.....	.....
Penticton	94	25
Pitt Meadows	1	.....
Point Grey	227	34
Richmond	53	45
Saanich	28	20
Salmon Arm	.....	.....
South Vancouver	2,676	62
Spallumcheen	.....	.....

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

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Sumas	.....	.....
Summerland	24	1
Surrey	8	4
Tadanac	19	.....
West Vancouver	43	8
Totals	4,049	344
Village Municipalities (5).		
Abbotsford	.....	.....
Burns Lake	7	1
Creston	5	1
Mission	195	18
Smithers	4	1
Totals	211	21
Fire Districts (23).		
Anyox	.....	.....
Burns Lake	2	.....
Dawson Creek	.....	.....
Hazelton	.....	.....
Hedley	.....	.....
Ioco	9	.....
Kimberley	158	72
Lucerne	.....	.....
Nakusp	.....	.....
Oliver	26	7
Pacific Mills, Limited	.....	.....
Port Essington	18	13
Pouce Coupe	.....	.....
Powell River	415	1
Princeton	42	6
Quesnel	26	9
Rolla	.....	.....
Sandon	.....	.....
Stewart	53	37
Telkwa	2	.....
Terrace	47	31
Union Bay	2	.....
Vanderhoof	5	.....
Totals	805	176
Grand totals	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 (34).		
Alberni	.....	.....
Armstrong	4	$ 7,015
Chilliwack	7	12,606
Courtenay	5	41,947
Cranbrook	11	3,251
Cumberland	7	386
Duncan	4	7,404
Enderby	.....	.....
Fernie	9	4,098
Grand Forks	2	407
Greenwood	1	1,250
Kamloops	13	16,805
Kaslo	1	40
Kelowna	10	12,729
Ladysmith	10	32,967
Merritt	6	2,795
Nanaimo	38	40,841
Nelson	19	5,585
New Westminster	47	66,717
North Vancouver	23	70,869
Phoenix	.....	.....
Port Alberni	7	45,430
Port Coquitlam	13	60,180
Port Moody	6	4,767
Prince George	11	19,454
Prince Rupert	17	230,167
Revelstoke	19	61,477
Rossland	11	2,746
Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Slocan	.....	.....
Trail	6	13,161
Vancouver	402	841,777
Vernon	2	1,310
Victoria	130	45,712
Totals	841	$1,653,894
District Municipalities (29).		
Burnaby	51	$ 168,670
Chilliwack	13	24,693
Coldstream	1	65
Coquitlam	6	10,911
Delta	1	2,530
Esquimalt	17	24,731
Fraser Mills	.....	.....
Kent	.....	.....
Langley	15	36,232
Maple Ridge	12	15,024
Matsqui	16	26,167
Mission	10	14,636
North Cowichan	4	14,548
North Vancouver	14	59,703
Oak Bay	14	16,270
Peachland	1	6
Penticton	8	16,918
Pitt Meadows	3	6,250
Point Grey	46	20,742
Richmond	14	94,057
Saanich	19	17,922
Salmon Arm	3	4,322
South Vancouver	67	50,530
Spallumcheen	5	6,639
Sumas	4	5,840
Summerland	7	26,003

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Surrey	41	$ 81,050
Tadanac	2	2,075
West Vancouver	15	20,295
Totals	409	$ 766,829
Village Municipalities (5).		
Abbotsford	1	$ 731
Burns Lake	13	53,558
Creston	1	2,202
Mission	2	650
Smithers	12	9,653
Totals	29	$ 66,794
Fire Districts (23).		
Anyox	2	$ 13,180
Burns Lake	.....	.....
Dawson Creek	.....	.....
Hazelton	.....	.....
Hedley	1	1,172
Ioco	.....	.....
Kimberley	5	42,250
Lucerne	.....	.....
Nakusp	1	750
Oliver	.....	.....
Pacific Mills, Limited	4	274
Port Essington	5	35,030
Pouce Coupe	.....	.....
Powell River	2	1,050
Princeton	5	6,479
Quesnel	19	52,760
Rolla	.....	.....
Sandon	1	250
Stewart	1	1,950
Telkwa	.....	.....
Terrace	3	6,600
Union Bay	3	618
Vanderhoof	2	3,849
Totals	54	$ 166,212
Unorganized Districts (15).		
Boundary	15	$ 48,917
Fort George	20	290,138
Fort St. John	4	2,425
Hazelton	8	10,751
Kamloops	22	65,327
Kootenay, North-east	23	109,897
Kootenay, South-east	30	203,466
Kootenay, West	37	160,603
Lillooet	5	14,368
Nanaimo	84	201,968
Prince Rupert	9	20,340
Vancouver-New Westminster	33	217,755
Vernon	20	54,979
Victoria	17	88,603
Yale	14	33,575
Totals	341	$1,523,112
Grand totals	1,674	$4,176,841

NOTE.—Construction of buildings—

Fire-resisting	7,	loss $	9,112
Brick or concrete	137,	,,	479,357
Frame	1,530,	,,	3,688,372
	1,674	,,	$4,176,841

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Ashes against wood	15	$ 6,958
Asphalt-pot boiling over	1	520
Burning paint off wall	1	27
Candle carelessness	2	2,260
Carburettor back-firing	12	5,818
Clothes too near open fire	2	21
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	26	13,138
Coal-gas explosion	1	1,000
Coal-oil carelessness	5	725
Curtains from candle	2	123
Curtains from electric light	1	5
Curtains from lamp	2	3,544
Curtains from stove	2	403
Defective battery connection	2	275
Defective brooder	1	425
Defective chimney	86	199,688
Defective fireplace	19	14,442
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	10	10,696
Defective gas-meter	1	50
Defective hot-air pipe	1	152
Defective matches	2	12
Defective oil-stove	3	911
Defective pipe connection	1	75
Defective stove or stove-pipe	47	86,721
Defective wiring	20	50,028
Electrical appliances	42	18,497
Exposure	167	431,801
Fire-crackers	3	634
Friction in belt	1	219
Friction in machinery ignited dust	1	2,944
Friction of steel cable against stump	2	49,200
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	7	14,022
Gas-heater explosion	1	46
Gas-jet left burning	1	174
Gasolene carelessness	19	10,982
Gasolene explosion	2	547
Gasolene leaking on exhaust-pipe	9	3,174
Gasolene-torch carelessness	3	1,795
Gas-plate insufficiently protected	3	937
Grease on stove	16	23,448
Heating of cinder collectors	1	104
Hot box	2	2,654
Incendiary	29	30,485
Lamp explosion	8	3,209
Lamp upset	9	11,797
Lantern upset	3	1,805
Lightning	9	18,572
Live coals	15	14,091
Lubricating-oil upset on forge	2	16,370
Match carelessness	59	118,539
Matches, children with	27	14,666
Matches, mice with	2	696
Molten metal spilled on floor	1	2
Oil overflowing from furnace	1	318
Oil-stove explosion	2	211
Overheated steam-pipe	1	14,943
Overheated tar-pot ignited roof	1	832
Overheating of blower-pipe	1	175
Overheating of machinery bearings	1	168,562
Paper from fireplace	1	5
Pitch-tank boiling over	2	238
Rubbish around furnace	1	450
Sealing-wax caught fire	1	5
Short circuit	47	75,702

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

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Smokers' carelessness	160	$ 246,532
Sparks from boiler	6	1,474
Sparks from burning rubbish	15	17,878
Sparks from bush fire	63	123,354
Sparks from chimney	225	203,350
Sparks from coffee-roaster	1	7
Sparks from conveyor	1	28,000
Sparks from Dutch oven	1	32,859
Sparks from engine	12	173,583
Sparks from fireplace	51	1,726
Sparks from forge	2	632
Sparks from furnace	4	96,389
Sparks from kiln	1	4,931
Sparks from locomotive	3	10,900
Sparks from mill burner	12	273,359
Sparks from slash fire	1	304
Sparks from smoke-stack	3	142
Sparks from smudge fire	2	810
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	23	51,913
Sparks from tractor	1	1,700
Spontaneous combustion	48	274,561
Stove explosion	2	261
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	91	110,414
Stove upset	1	400
Sun's rays on glass	1	10,300
Tar boiling over	2	2,621
Unknown	166	1,049,263
Varnish boiling over	1	388
Wood too near steam-pipe	1	1,873
Wood too near stove	6	6,049
Totals	1,674	$4,176,841

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Apartments	28	Curtains from stove	1	$ 18	
		Defective chimney	1	200	
		Defective fireplace	1	203	
		Electrical appliances	2	1,988	
		Exposure	1	194	
		Live coals	1	280	
		Match carelessness	3	1,554	
		Sealing-wax caught fire	1	5	
		Smokers' carelessness	8	552	
		Sparks from chimney	4	6,817	
		Sparks from fireplace	2	62	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	2	
		Unknown	2	100	
					$ 11,975
Arenas	1	Tar boiling over	1	.....	10
Automobiles	79	Carburettor back-firing	10	$ 4,317	
		Defective battery connection	2	275	
		Defective wiring	1	548	
		Exposure	12	8,318	
		Gasolene carelessness	6	2,817	
		Gasolene leaking on exhaust-pipe	9	3,174	
		Incendiary	1	800	
		Match carelessness	4	1,967	
		Short circuit	24	7,766	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	100	
		Unknown	8	4,415	
					34,497
Bakeries	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$ 992	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
					997
Banks	1	Exposure	1	.....	4,100
Banks and offices	1	Smokers' carelessness	1	.....	75
Barber-shops	1	Electrical appliances	1	.....	464
Barns	42	Exposure	7	$ 7,812	
		Grease on stove	1	10	
		Lantern upset	1	795	
		Live coals	1	250	
		Match carelessness	3	7,690	
		Matches, children with	4	1,515	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	331	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	75	
		Sparks from bush fire	2	600	
		Sparks from stove-pipe	1	1,500	
		Sparks from tractor	1	1,700	
		Spontaneous combustion	9	32,241	
		Unknown	10	10,697	
					65,216
Barns and stables	2	Defective chimney	1	$ 1,275	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	856	
					2,131
Billiard-parlours	1	Exposure	1	.....	25
Blacksmith-shops	6	Exposure	1	$ 285	
		Lightning	1	7,633	
		Lubricating-oil upset on forge	1	8,800	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	1,500	
		Sparks from forge	1	200	
		Unknown	1	1,450	
					19,868
Boarding-houses	7	Exposure	1	$ 10,000	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	104	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	1,040	
					11,149

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Breweries	3	Defective wiring	1	$ 1,028	
		Pitch-tank boiling over	1	168	
		Unknown	1	30,294	
					$ 31,490
Brick-kilns	1	Hot box	1	.....	365
Bunk-houses	5	Defective stove	1	$ 692	
		Lightning	1	1,460	
		Sparks from stove	1	4,380	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	378	
		Unknown	1	1,438	
					8,348
Canneries	2	Exposure	1	$ 9,773	
		Unknown	1	143,039	
					152,812
Carpenters' shops	1	Coal-oil carelessness	1	.....	200
Chicken-houses	9	Ashes against wood	1	$ 124	
		Defective brooder	1	425	
		Defective stove	1	750	
		Lamp explosion	2	283	
		Lamp upset	1	65	
		Live coals	1	2,800	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	800	
		Unknown	1	10,423	
					15,670
Churches	4	Defective furnace	1	$ 6	
		Oil overflowing from furnace	1	318	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	15	
		Sparks from chimney	1	861	
					1,200
Clubs	7	Curtains from electric light	1	$ 5	
		Exposure	3	7,453	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	12	
		Sparks from chimney	1	29	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	10	
					7,509
Coal-chutes (mechanical)	1	Smokers' carelessness	1	.....	6,000
Cranes	1	Short circuit	1	.....	1,500
Dry-kilns	4	Matches, children with	1	100	
		Overheated steam-pipe	1	14,943	
		Sparks from mill burner	2	2,079	
					17,122
Dwellings	945	Ashes against wood	8	$ 6,307	
		Burning paint off wall	1	27	
		Candle carelessness	2	2,260	
		Clothes too near open fire	2	21	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	24	13,081	
		Coal-gas explosion	1	1,000	
		Coal-oil carelessness	4	525	
		Curtains from candle	2	123	
		Curtains from lamp	2	3,544	
		Curtains from stove	1	385	
		Defective chimney	73	107,092	
		Defective fireplace	18	14,239	
		Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	7	7,990	
		Defective gas-meter	1	50	
		Defective hot-air pipe	1	152	
		Defective matches	2	12	
		Defective oil-stove	2	816	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	41	66,883	
		Defective wiring	13	43,043	
		Electrical appliances	29	7,524	
		Exposure	53	44,692	
		Fire-crackers	2	184	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	4	1,145	
		Gas-heater upset	1	46	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Gasolene carelessness	4	$ 2,419	
		Gasolene explosion	2	547	
		Gasolene-torch carelessness	1	4	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	2	927	
		Grease on stove	9	7,603	
		Incendiary	17	21,333	
		Lamp explosion	5	2,746	
		Lamp upset	6	7,532	
		Lantern upset	2	1,010	
		Lightning	4	8,826	
		Live coals	11	1,761	
		Match carelessness	25	18,248	
		Matches, children with	16	12,277	
		Matches, mice with	1	600	
		Molten metal spilled on floor	1	2	
		Oil-stove explosion	2	211	
		Paper from fireplace	1	5	
		Rubbish around furnace	1	450	
		Short circuit	6	5,963	
		Smokers' carelessness	48	17,792	
		Sparks from boiler	1	101	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	8	7,009	
		Sparks from bush fire	46	50,461	
		Sparks from chimney	186	146,915	
		Sparks from fireplace	49	1,664	
		Sparks from locomotive	2	10,895	
		Sparks from mill burner	2	58	
		Sparks from smoke-stack	2	67	
		Sparks from smudge fire	1	800	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	18	37,843	
		Spontaneous combustion	8	17,026	
		Stove explosion	2	261	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	74	88,309	
		Stove upset	1	400	
		Tar boiling over on stove	1	2,611	
		Unknown	80	162,486	
		Wood too near stove	6	6,049	
					$964,352
Dye-works	2	Electrical appliances	1	$ 252	
		Sparks from smoke-stack	1	75	
					327
Electrical plants	1	Short circuit	1		1,059
Elevators (grain)	2	Exposure	1	$ 19,435	
		Friction in belt	1	219	
					19,654
Engines	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1		45
Factories (auto-top)	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		16,832
Factories (baby-carriage)	1	Defective chimney	1		27,000
Factories (bed)	1	Friction in machinery ignited dust	1		2,944
Factories (box)	2	Hot box	1	$ 2,289	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	11,443	
					13,732
Factories (briquette)	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		275
Factories (cement)	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1		7,500
Factories (clothing)	1	Electrical appliances	1		9
Factories (decorative glass)	1	Defective chimney	1		75
Factories (laundry-tray)	1	Unknown	1		3,718
Factories (paper box)	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		94,173
Factories (roofing material)	2	Overheated tar-pot ignited roof	1	$ 832	
		Pitch-tank boiling over	1	70	
					902
Factories (sash and door)	3	Exposure	1	$ 240	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	230	
		Sparks from boiler	1	25	
					495

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Factories (saw)	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1	.....	$ 2,832
Factories (shoe)	1	Short circuit	1	.....	1,369
Factories (varnish and paint)	1	Varnish boiling over	1	.....	388
Fences	2	Ashes against wood	1	$ 2	
		Unknown	1	20	
					22
Fishing-boats	2	Gasolene carelessness	1	$ 240	
		Match carelessness	1	554	
					794
Fish-packing plants	2	Exposure	2	.....	5,000
Flour-mills	1	Spontaneous combustion	1	.....	51,955
Foundries	3	Furnace insufficiently protected	1	$ 10,773	
		Sparks from furnace	1	4,073	
		Unknown	1	7,487	
					22,333
Freight-cars	1	Exposure	1	.....	700
Gaols	2	Defective furnace-pipe	1	$ 2,400	
		Exposure	1	2,000	
					4,400
Garages	20	Ashes against wood	1	$ 50	
		Exposure	1	3,300	
		Gasolene carelessness	2	3,850	
		Match carelessness	1	887	
		Short circuit	5	2,080	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	5,506	
		Sparks from stove	1	3,300	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	1,700	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	6,500	
		Unknown	5	9,510	
					36,683
Gasolene stations	2	Defective chimney	1	$ 550	
		Gasolene carelessness	1	40	
					590
Golf-club houses	2	Stove insufficiently protected	1	$ 9,500	
		Unknown	1	865	
					10,365
Grandstands	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$ 43,626	
		Unknown	1	42,500	
					86,126
Greenhouses	1	Defective furnace	1	.....	300
Halls	6	Smokers' carelessness	4	$ 7,906	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	850	
		Sparks from stove	1	4,365	
					13,121
Horse-show buildings	1	Exposure	1	.....	10,027
Hospitals	11	Electrical appliances	1	$ 106	
		Grease on stove	1	50	
		Lightning	1	113	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	35	
		Sparks from chimney	6	396	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	30	
					730
Hotels	48	Clothes too near stove	1	$ 35	
		Defective chimney	1	21,987	
		Defective wiring	2	3,150	
		Exposure	5	42,095	
		Gasolene-torch carelessness	1	1,741	
		Grease on stove	1	75	
		Incendiary	1	800	
		Lamp upset	1	4,000	
		Match carelessness	4	482	
		Smokers' carelessness	22	11,971	
		Sparks from chimney	4	2,445	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sparks from furnace	2	$ 8,795	
		Unknown	3	45,208	
					$142,784
House-boats	1	Incendiary	1		500
Launches	3	Carburettor back-firing	2	$ 1,501	
		Gasolene carelessness	1	900	
					2,401
Laundries	10	Defective pipe connection	1	$ 75	
		Defective wiring	1	421	
		Exposure	2	1,550	
		Fire-crackers	1	450	
		Match carelessness	1	100	
		Overheating of blower-pipe	1	175	
		Sparks from boiler	2	158	
		Sparks from chimney	1	84	
					3,013
Logging camps	24	Friction of steel cable against stump	2	$ 49,200	
		Match carelessness	4	44,722	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	25,502	
		Sparks from bush fire	5	15,371	
		Sparks from engine	10	168,656	
		Sparks from slash fire	1	304	
		Unknown	1	4,109	
					307,864
Lumber-piles	4	Sparks from bush fire	1	$ 1,083	
		Sparks from locomotive	1	5	
		Unknown	2	6,199	
					7,287
Lumber-yards	4	Exposure	1	$ 49,492	
		Incendiary	1	1,000	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	15,102	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	7,953	
					73,547
Machine-shops	3	Exposure	1	$ 588	
		Gasolene carelessness	1	30	
		Sun's rays on glass	1	10,300	
					10,918
Marine repair plants	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		2,334
Mining property	5	Lubricating-oil upset on forge	1	$ 7,570	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	12,123	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	31,535	
		Unknown	1	11,000	
					62,228
Offices	22	Ashes against wood	1	$ 40	
		Defective chimney	1	35	
		Exposure	10	10,851	
		Match carelessness	1	100	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	4,886	
		Sparks from engine	1	400	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	5,187	
		Unknown	2	1,732	
					23,231
Paper-mills	1	Unknown	1		52
Paving plants	1	Asphalt-pot boiling over	1		520
Planing-mills	2	Unknown	1	$ 67,416	
		Wood too near steam-pipe	1	1,873	
					69,289
Playhouses (children's)	1	Matches, children with	1		25
Pole-yards	1	Incendiary	1		185
Pool-rooms	1	Exposure	1		532
Post-offices	2	Exposure	1	$ 3,100	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	100	
					3,200

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Pottery plants	1	Sparks from kiln	1	.....	$ 4,931
Pumping stations	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1	.....	207
Railway stations	2	Match carelessness	1	$ 300	
		Matches, mice with	1	96	
					396
Repair-shops	1	Unknown	1	.....	1,050
Restaurants	8	Exposure	5	$ 17,800	
		Grease on stove	2	2,170	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	12	
					19,982
Rooming-houses	14	Ashes against wood	1	$ 260	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	10	
		Incendiary	1	3,717	
		Smokers' carelessness	9	197	
		Sparks from chimney	2	325	
					4,509
Rooms and offices	1	Defective chimney	1	.....	9,354
Sawmills	25	Heating of cinder collectors	1	$ 104	
		Incendiary	1	413	
		Live coals	1	9,000	
		Sparks from boiler	1	100	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	50	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	8,900	
		Sparks from chimney	1	25,904	
		Sparks from conveyor	1	28,000	
		Sparks from engine	1	4,527	
		Sparks from furnace	1	83,521	
		Sparks from mill burner	7	269,147	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	59	
		Unknown	7	367,741	
					797,466
Schools	7	Defective wiring	1	$ 1,800	
		Gasolene-torch carelessness	1	50	
		Incendiary	1	47	
		Sparks from chimney	2	3,536	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	375	
		Unknown	1	500	
					6,308
Sheds	29	Ashes against wood	1	$ 50	
		Exposure	4	875	
		Match carelessness	1	20	
		Matches, children with	3	98	
		Smokers' carelessness	7	204	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	160	
		Sparks from chimney	1	800	
		Sparks from smudge fire	1	10	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	67	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	365	
		Unknown	8	7,435	
					10,084
Shingle-mills	9	Exposure	1	$ 498	
		Match carelessness	1	21,150	
		Sparks from boiler	1	1,090	
		Sparks from bush fire	3	5,786	
		Sparks from Dutch oven	1	32,859	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	2,075	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	1,171	
					64,629
Shipyards	5	Exposure	1	$ 110	
		Match carelessness	1	2,045	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	387	
		Sparks from forge	1	432	
		Unknown	1	4,135	
					7,109

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Slaughter-houses	1	Spontaneous combustion	1	.....	$ 7
Stables	16	Defective chimney	1	$ 537	
		Exposure	3	1,346	
		Lightning	2	540	
		Match carelessness	1	150	
		Matches, children with	1	531	
		Overheating of machinery bearings	1	168,562	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	3,219	
		Unknown	3	2,210	
					177,095
Stores	84	Ashes against wood	1	$ 125	
		Defective chimney	1	14,000	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	3	7,009	
		Electrical appliances	3	1,842	
		Exposure	23	87,975	
		Gasolene carelessness	2	661	
		Grease on stove	1	40	
		Incendiary	3	1,170	
		Match carelessness	3	10,200	
		Short circuit	4	49,213	
		Smokers' carelessness	14	52,028	
		Sparks from chimney	4	13,664	
		Sparks from coffee-roaster	1	7	
		Spontaneous combustion	7	16,210	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	5	947	
		Unknown	9	44,751	
					299,842
Stores and apartments	10	Defective chimney	1	$ 100	
		Exposure	3	478	
		Short circuit	1	262	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	89	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	1,751	
		Unknown	1	450	
					3,130
Stores and dwellings	31	Defective chimney	4	$ 17,652	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	11,387	
		Electrical appliances	1	35	
		Exposure	9	62,723	
		Lamp explosion	1	180	
		Short circuit	1	5,195	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	7,000	
		Sparks from chimney	5	271	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	4,061	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	3,206	
		Unknown	4	38,870	
					150,580
Stores and halls	2	Exposure	1	$ 3,526	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	10,000	
					13,526
Stores and hotels	4	Electrical appliances	1	$ 67	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	231	
		Unknown	1	6,716	
					7,014
Stores and offices	18	Exposure	4	$ 579	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	2,004	
		Gas-jet left burning	1	174	
		Gasolene carelessness	1	25	
		Match carelessness	1	500	
		Smokers' carelessness	6	366	
		Sparks from chimney	2	30	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	1,190	
		Unknown	1	25	
					4,893

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Stores, offices, and rooms	4	Clothes too near stove	1	$ 22	
		Electrical appliances	1	3,010	
		Incendiary	1	520	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	25	
					$ 3,577
Stores and post-offices	1	Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1		60
Stores and rooms	10	Defective oil-stove	1	$ 95	
		Electrical appliances	1	3,200	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	100	
		Grease on stove	1	13,500	
		Match carelessness	1	7,800	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	47	
		Sparks from chimney	1	1,094	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	97	
		Unknown	1	4,300	
					30,233
Street-cars	3	Short circuit	3		1,100
Tanneries	1	Defective wiring	1		38
Theatres	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		2
Tool-vans	1	Lamp upset	1		200
Tug-boats	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		1,625
Warehouses	12	Exposure	3	$ 14,329	
		Match carelessness	2	70	
		Matches, children with	1	120	
		Short circuit	1	200	
		Sparks from stove	1	525	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	32,268	
		Unknown	2	6,922	
					54,434
Totals	1,674		1,674		$4,176,841

TABLE V.—SUMMARY.

	Fires reported.						Amount of Loss.					
	Cities (34).	Municipalities (29).	Villages (5).	Fire Districts (23).	Unorganized Districts (15).	Total.	Cities.	Municipalities.	Villages.	Fire Districts.	Unorganized Districts.	Total.
1925.												
January	84	38	....	1	20	143	$ 71,367	$ 56,848	.....	$ 75	$ 66,417	$ 194,707
February	42	21	11	2	14	90	33,291	24,863	$ 9,461	9,350	26,083	103,048
March	91	34	11	5	21	162	185,344	32,276	51,680	7,735	40,536	317,571
April	61	42	....	1	31	135	44,862	27,847	.....	1,200	51,819	125,728
May	90	25	1	3	31	150	313,013	28,885	192	6,150	312,411	660,651
June	80	30	....	18	30	158	87,056	67,034	.....	57,568	254,872	466,530
July	68	32	....	9	41	150	252,575	40,120	.....	71,779	179,261	543,735
August	69	57	1	3	57	187	222,927	100,443	200	1,002	191,893	516,465
September	54	20	1	3	26	104	29,897	107,225	1,860	934	80,350	220,266
October	78	40	2	1	23	144	74,888	81,844	1,181	2,412	93,857	254,182
November	69	41	1	4	23	138	303,855	168,027	2,202	2,709	53,304	530,097
December	55	29	1	4	24	113	34,819	31,417	18	5,298	172,309	243,861
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
Totals, 1921	844	304	....	....	210	1,358	861,251	595,367	.....	.....	886,350	2,342,968
	4,376	1,884	39	121	1,532	7,952	$7,119,848	$4,014,379	$96,714	$290,358	$6,531,243	$18,052,542

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1921–25.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.	
		Adults.	Children.
Dwelling	Gasolene explosion	1	....
Dwelling	Lamp explosion	1	4
Hotel	Lamp upset	2	....
Logging camp	Sparks from engine	1	....
Totals, 1925		5	4
Totals, 1924		1	5
Totals, 1923		5	9
Totals, 1922		8	2
Totals, 1921		10	1

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